

PHIL 4970 Capstone Seminar
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The Capstone Seminar is designed to be an overview of your studies of philosophy at UNT. It should help give you perspective on the both the history of philosophy and contemporary problems of philosophy. In this class we will read some new texts (not just review what you've read before), in the history of philosophy (to recap the development of the field), and major 20th Century movements (to fill in important gaps in your education), organized thematically (to provide a philosophical lens to bring the past and present into better focus). The aim of the course is to improve your knowledge of philosophy, your communication skills, and ability to write a philosophy paper.

The main theme of this Capstone Seminar is the Kantian heritage in aesthetics, epistemology, morality, and politics. We will read Kant's aesthetic philosophy and philosophies of beauty and art; Gadamer's anti-Kantian aesthetic theory and philosophies of language and interpretation; Habermas's Kantian theories of language and rationality; Rawls's political liberalism and defense of Kantian morality.

A second theme of the course is the relationship between abstract and concrete, universal and particular, individual and community. These related pairs appear again and again in the history of philosophy and continue to shape past and present philosophical debates. A grasp on this issue should provide a helpful perspective on a myriad of issues.

Texts: Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (Hackett Publishers)
Hans-Georg Gadamer, *Truth and Method*
Jürgen Habermas, *Theory of Communicative Action* , Vol. 1
John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*

Requirements: This class will be conducted like a graduate school seminar. I will lecture for the first half of class; for the second half, each student will share his or her comments and questions about the assigned readings. You are allowed *two unexcused absences*. Your grade will be lowered by one-half letter grade for each additional absence. You must write the final paper and *every response paper*.

Grades: Your grade will be based on one final paper (approx. 12-15 double-space pages) and weekly (twelve) 1-2 page (single-space) response papers. Late assignments accepted; minus ½ grade per day.

Paper	75%
Response papers	25%

Reading Schedule:	1/22	Intro
	1/29	Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>
	2/5	Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>
	2/12	Kant, <i>Critique of Judgment</i>
	2/19	Gadamer, <i>Truth and Method</i>
	2/26	Gadamer, <i>Truth and Method</i>
	3/5	Gadamer, <i>Truth and Method</i>
	3/12	Gadamer, <i>Truth and Method</i>
	3/19	Spring Break
	3/26	Habermas, <i>Theory of Communicative Action</i> , Vol. 1
	4/2	Habermas, <i>Theory of Communicative Action</i> , Vol. 1
	4/9	Habermas, <i>Theory of Communicative Action</i> , Vol. 1
	4/16	Rawls, <i>Political Liberalism</i>
	4/23	Rawls, <i>Political Liberalism</i>
	4/30	Rawls, <i>Political Liberalism</i>