

Reading Assignment 13: Kant on Geometry

REQUIRED READINGS

- Kant 2004. Preamble (pp. 15-22) and Sections 6-13 (pp. 32-38).
- Excerpt from *Critique of Pure Reason*. A716-A717. Page 197 in Kant 2004.

QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, define “analytic judgment” and “synthetic judgment.” Give your own example of each.
2. In your own words, explain the distinction between an *a priori* and an empirical judgment.
3. Are mathematical judgments analytic or synthetic according to Kant? Explain one of Kant’s examples that illustrates your answer.
4. This question is extremely difficult. Give it your best shot. To the best of your ability, explain what Kant might mean when he asserts:

There is therefore only one way possible for my intuition to precede the actuality of the object and occur as an a priori cognition, namely if it contains nothing else except the form of sensibility, which in me as subject precedes all actual impressions through which I am affected by objects.

It might help to read the translator’s introduction on page xiii to get a sense of what Kant means by “intuition.”

REFERENCES

- [1] I. Kant. *Prolegomena to any future metaphysics: with selections from the Critique of pure reason*. Ed. by G. Hatfield. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.