

**Skepticism, Atheism, and Religious Faith (Religious Studies 2LL3)
Fall 2013**

TEXT PREPARATION 1

Assignment due in class on October 16*

**As noted on the course syllabus: Text Preparation assignments are designed to help you prepare the reading assignment for a particular class, in conjunction with your participation in that class. Thus, those assignments may only be submitted in class on the days they are due. If you have to miss that day's class, please contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements.*

This assignment is based on:

- Immanuel Kant, selection from *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788), trans. Mary Gregor [included in coursepack; or copy from *Practical Philosophy* on reserve: pp. 236-55]: Read closely Part III ("On the Primacy of Pure Practical Reason") and Part IV ("The Immortality of the Soul as a Postulate of Pure Practical Reason"); begin reading Part V ("The Existence of God as a Postulate of Pure Practical Reason").

In well-written paragraphs, a total of approximately 600 words**, please address the following question with detailed reference to the text:

What is "the highest good" for Kant? Who is capable of attaining it? What are the consequences for the immortality of the soul?

As was the case for previous assignments, your observations should be backed up with references that allow your reader to see what they are based on. For this purpose, please use in-text parenthetical page references - for an example of these, see Harvey, *Writing with Sources* [selection in coursepack/book on reserve/purchase book], p. 51, under "MLA Basic Rules."

Study Question (or alternate Text Preparation Question): The Text Preparation question above relates to Section IV of the Kant reading. Section III will be more difficult than Section IV to make sense of before we have discussed it in class. But here is a study question for Section III:

In this section, Kant distinguishes "pure," "theoretical," "speculative" reason from "practical reason" (which relates to moral judgments). How does he describe the relationship between these two types of reason?

If you prefer, you may answer this question, instead of the question above, in your Text Preparation.

Note: Since this is your first reading of this text, and since we have not yet discussed it in class, the Text Preparation assignment is simply a first effort at figuring out what it says, and doing it will help you get the most of our in-class work on it. Your fuller understanding will develop in the course of our class meetings, and with successive re-readings.

**Please print your assignment double-spaced and with one-inch margins, using a 10-12-point font. Please number and staple the pages you hand in.

Please indicate the total word count at the end of your assignment.

Please keep a copy of your assignment to refer to in our class discussions of Kant over the next couple of meetings.

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