

First Paper Topic
Philosophy 175
Spring, 2007

Due: April 30, 2007, in class

Write an essay of roughly 5 pages on the following topic. Use the *Critique* and *Prolegomena* as the basis of your work. You may use the course Web notes if you cite them by lecture title and section heading. Be sure to quote the text whenever you attribute a claim to Kant. Papers not turned in on the day due will be penalized progressively, with the penalties increasing each two working days overdue. Papers should be double-spaced (3 lines per inch) with ample room in the margins for comments.

According to Kant, the main task of metaphysics is to explain how synthetic judgments are possible *a priori*. Consider the case of the extension and figure of bodies. How, according to Kant, is it possible to make synthetic judgments about the spatial properties of bodies without recourse to experience? Describe Kant's explanation as fully as you can, and evaluate the success or failure of the explanation.