

Popular Culture and Philosophy

A Book and Video Group Hosted by the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston

2016-2017

Star Trek and Philosophy: The Wrath of Kant

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Group Leader

Kate Van Cleef

Each session will be offered twice, first on a Sunday at 9:45am and again the following Friday at 7:00pm. Simply choose the day and time that's most convenient for you. The Sunday session will run one hour. The Friday session will run closer to two hours, which will allow us time to watch clips during the session and discuss the topic in more depth.

Although the conversation is sure to build on itself through the discussion series, each session will focus on a single, specific subtopic, and we'll love to have you even if you're unable to complete the reading or viewing for a particular session. Please feel free to join us as you find us, and as you are willing and able.

I have set up a group page at MeWe.com. You will be able to find all readings and links to videos there, and I hope we will also be moved to discuss the topics and share related videos, articles, and so on between sessions. Use the link below to join the group.

<https://mewe.com/join/popcultureufh1>

Sun. 10/16 & Fri 10/21

ST&P Reading

- Intro
- Ch. 1 "From Shakespeare to Wittgenstein: "Darmok" and Cultural Literacy"

Viewing

- *Next Gen* Season 5, Ep. 2 "Darmok"

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (1991)
 - *Henry V*, Act III, Scene 4 by William Shakespeare
 - "Shakespeare in the Original Klingon: Star Trek and the End of History"
-

Sun. 10/30 & Fri. 11/4

ST&P Reading

- Ch. 2 "Death and Rebirth of a Vulcan Mind"

Viewing

- *Star Trek* Season 2, Ep. 1 "Amok Time"

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *Star Trek* Season 1, Ep. 15 "Balance of Terror"
- *The Bhagavad Gita*, Ch. 2

Sun. 11/13 & Fri. 11/18

ST&P Reading

- Ch. 3 “Humans Smile With So Little Provocation”

Viewing

- *TNG* Season 4, Ep. 3 “Brothers”
- *Star Trek: Generations* (1994)

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *On Anger* (excerpts) by Seneca
-

Sun. 12/4 & Fri. 12/9

ST&P Reading

- Ch. 4 “The Wrath of Nietzsche”

Viewing

- *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *The Gay Science* (excerpts) by Friedrich Nietzsche
-

Sun. 1/8 & Fri. 1/13

ST&P Reading

- Ch. 5 “Mind Your P’s and Q’s: Power, Pleasure, and the Q Continuum”

Viewing

- *Next Gen* Season 1, Ep. 1 “Encounter at Far Point”
- *Next Gen* Season 1, Ep. 10 “Hide and Q”
- *Next Gen* Season 3, Ep. 13 “Deja Q”

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *The Republic* – “The Story of Gyges” by Plato
-

Sun. 1/22 & Fri. 1/27

ST&P Reading

Ch. 10 “Inhuman Nature, or What’s it Like to Be a Borg?”

Viewing

- *Voyager* Season 5, Ep. 11 “Latent Image”
- *Star Trek: First Contact* (1996)

Optional Reading & Viewing

- “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century” by Donna Haraway

Sun. 2/12 & Fri. 2/17

ST&P Reading

Ch. 11 "Recognizing the Big Picture: Why We Want to Live in the Federation"

Viewing

- *DS9* Season 3, Ep. 11 & 12 "Past Tense"
- *Voyager* Season 6, Ep 4 "Tinker, Tenor, Doctor, Spy"

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *Phenemology of the Spirit* (excerpts) by George W. F. Hegel
 - "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?" by Charles Taylor
-

Sun. 2/26 & Fri. 3/3

ST&P Reading

Ch. 12 "Why not Live in the Holodeck?"

Viewing

- *Next Gen* Season 3, Ep 21 "Hollow Pursuits"
- *Next Gen* Season 6, Ep 12 "Ship in a Bottle"

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *Red Dwarf*, Series 2, Ep 2 - "Better than Life"
 - "The Veldt" by Ray Bradbury
-

Sun. 3/19 & Fri. 3/24

ST&P Reading

Ch. 13 "The Second Coming of Kahless: Worf's 'Will to Believe'"

Viewing

- *Next Gen* Season 6, Ep 23 "Rightful Heir"

Optional Reading & Viewing

- "The Will to Believe" by William James
-

Sun. 4/2 & Fri. 4/7

ST&P Reading

Ch. 14 "Cardassian 'Monsters' and Bajoran 'Freedom Fighters'"

Viewing

- *DS9* Season 1, Ep 19 "Duet"
- *Star Trek: Insurrection* (1998)

Optional Reading & Viewing

- *The Differend* (excerpts) by Jean-Francois Lyotard
- *Death and the Maiden* (1994)

Sun. 4/16 & Fri. 4/21

Special Topic (inspired by earlier conversations) TBD by each group

Sun 4/30 & Fri 5/5

Special Topic (inspired by earlier conversations) TBD by each group

Sun 5/14 & Fri 5/19

Special Topic (inspired by earlier conversations) TBD by each group

Sun 5/28 & Fri 6/2

2016-2017 Wrap-Up

Vote on Book for 2017-2018