Your paper should be 3-pages, and it is due NO LATER than Friday, December 13, 2019. You may drop it off at my office; or submit it in class at the final meeting of class on the 11th or email it to me, no later than 5pm on the 13th.

Kant is sharply critical of metaphysical theories of the sort that Descartes developed. Kant argues that such theories—claiming to disclose the nature of things beyond what is accessible to us in sense-experience—make exaggerated, unjustifiable claims on behalf of reason. If the claims we make exceed the bounds of experience we inevitably end up with skepticism, because an adequate basis for those claims cannot be found. Thus, Kant argues that the proper problem, the one on which we should be focused, is the question “How are synthetic propositions a priori possible?”

Explain why he thinks that is the question that needs to be answered? Why does he think that the only way for metaphysics to make any genuine, illuminating sense is by addressing that question? What is special about synthetic propositions a priori? (He claims that they help solve “Hume’s problem;” that they enable us to avoid the errors of “dogmatic” metaphysics; and that they put metaphysics on a sound basis. How and why do they make such a positive difference?)