This dissertation deals with the transcendental philosophy of Immanuel Kant. I provide the background of transcendental philosophy before Kant, beginning from Aristotle. Kant transformed Aristotelian transcendental philosophy by using the method of the sciences in the Modern period. This method was initiated by Francis Bacon, in his method of induction. Isaac Newton transformed the method so that it could deal with verification and falsification. This Newtonian method was taken up into chemistry, serving as a guide for the analysis and synthesis of elements. Kant used this method in his transcendental philosophy, with a view to putting metaphysics onto the path of a science. Kant was first awakened to transcendental idealism in 1769, though he did not put forth a full transcendental philosophy until 1781. In his mature transcendental philosophy, he not only uses the scientific method, but he also illustrates the categories using biological imagery. After looking at the broad contours of Kant’s transcendental philosophy, I deal with the first criticism of his transcendental philosophy. In replying to his critic, Kant made explicit his scientific method, while drawing from the thought of David Hume and Thomas Reid. With Kant’s explanations of his transcendental philosophy in hand, I turn to an element of his non-transcendental philosophy, namely moral philosophy, in order to provide a contrast that serves to illuminate the precise nature of his transcendental philosophy.
# Table of Contents

Declaration Page  
Abstract  
Acknowledgements  
List of Abbreviations  

## Chapter One: Introduction  

### 2.1: Introduction  

### 2.2: Plato’s Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.3: Aristotle and the Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.4: Transcendental Philosophy in the Scholastics  

#### 2.4.1: Thomas Aquinas and the Transcendentials  

#### 2.4.2: Duns Scotus and Transcendental Philosophy  

#### 2.4.3: Francisco Suarez and Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.5: Early Modern Transcendental Considerations  

### 2.6: Late Modern Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.7: Conclusion  

## Chapter Two: Transcendental Philosophy before Kant  

### 2.1: Introduction  

### 2.2: Plato’s Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.3: Aristotle and the Foundations of Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.4: Transcendental Philosophy in the Scholastics  

#### 2.4.1: Thomas Aquinas and the Transcendentials  

#### 2.4.2: Duns Scotus and Transcendental Philosophy  

#### 2.4.3: Francisco Suarez and Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.5: Early Modern Transcendental Considerations  

### 2.6: Late Modern Transcendental Philosophy  

### 2.7: Conclusion  

## Chapter Three: Kant’s Baconian Method  

### 3.1: Introduction  

### 3.2: Background Material for Understanding Kant’s Method  

#### 3.2.1: The Port-Royal Logic  

#### 3.2.2: Francis Bacon  

#### 3.2.3: Isaac Newton  

#### 3.2.4: Chemistry  

### 3.3: Kant’s Early Statements on Method  

### 3.4: CPR B Preface  

### 3.5: Conclusion  

## Chapter Four: Kant’s Transcendental Philosophy  

### 4.1: Introduction  

### 4.2: Kant’s Transcendental Philosophy before the *Critique of Pure Reason*  

#### 4.2.1: Kant’s Early Transcendental Realism  

#### 4.2.2: Kant’s Awakening from His Dogmatic Slumber  

#### 4.2.3: Ideality in the *Inaugural Dissertation*  

#### 4.2.4: Kant’s Turn to Transcendental Philosophy  

#### 4.2.5: The Aristotelian Nature of Kant’s Transcendental Philosophy  

### 4.3: Ideality and Reality  

#### 4.3.1: From Ideality to Transcendental Ideality  

#### 4.3.2: Transcendental Ideality and Empirical Reality  


4.4: Kant’s Mature Transcendental Philosophy 138
4.4.1: Legal Biology—Acquisition and Epigenesis 138
4.4.2: Kant and the Göttingen Review 157
4.4.3: Kant’s Chemical Experiment as an Experimentum Crucis 168
4.4.4: Kant’s Mature Transcendental Realism 174
4.5: Conclusion 181

Chapter Five: Building on the Transcendental 183

5.1: Introduction 183
5.2: The CPR Doctrine of Method 183
5.3: Morality as Non-Transcendental Philosophy 201
5.4: Conclusion 216

Chapter Six: Conclusion 218

Appendix—Kant’s Baconian Tables 222

Bibliography 234