

INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS PHIL252 (A01)

Metaphysics concerns the nature of reality. This course introduces some of its central topics, including: reality, matter, God, free will, persons, mind, and space and time.

PREREQUISITES None.

PLACE/TIME CLE A203, Monday & Thursday 11:30pm-12:50pm (*fall 2017*)

INSTRUCTOR DR Mike Raven (✉ mike@mikeraven.net • 📧 mikeraven.net)

ASSISTANT Gennady McCracken (✉ gennadymccracken@uvic.ca)

OFFICE HOURS CLE B323 Monday 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment.

WEBSITE 📧 coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=33720

TEXTS R † CONEE & SIDER, *Riddles of Existence (New Edition)*
BOGHOSSIAN, *Fear of Knowledge*

EVALUATION

RUBRIC The RUBRIC supplements this syllabus and all coursework. It describes the skilled craftsmanship to be trained in this class and gives general guidelines for applying it. Refer to it throughout the term:

📧 [mikeraven.net/teaching/\[Raven\] Philosophy Rubric.pdf](http://mikeraven.net/teaching/[Raven] Philosophy Rubric.pdf)

WORK

- **5 problem sets (75%):** *Due (tentative):* SEP22; OCT13; NOV3,20; DEC4
- **Checkpoints (20%):** Best 7 of 10 unannounced in-class quizzes
- **Participation (5%):** Engagement with the course, including contributions to class and communication with the instructor.

GRADES The grade you earn depends on your work in this course. All work is needed to pass. No extra credit. Work is evaluated for craftsmanship (see RUBRIC) on the scale: **A+>90 A⁸⁹⁻⁸⁵ A-84-80 B+79-77 B⁷⁶⁻⁷³ B-72-70 C+69-65 C⁶⁴⁻⁶⁰ D⁵⁹⁻⁵⁰ F^{<50}**

LATENESS If you do not expect to complete an assignment on time, inform the instructor and then submit what you have done on time. Extensions must be requested before due date and must include a compelling reason (e.g. documented medical problem). Extensions expire by return date (exceptions only at the instructor's discretion). Unextended late work is penalized 5 points/day and is not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

CONDUCT Enrolling binds you to a social contract: be professional and respectful in class (e.g. don't bully, distract) and in your work (see RUBRIC §3.4).

CONTACT When seeking guidance, communicate professionally: first check official sources (syllabus, website, RUBRIC), and budget time for replies.

RECORDING Audio/visual recordings require instructor's prior consent, or an approved accommodation plan. Do not distribute recordings publicly.

GUESTS Guests are not permitted without instructor's prior consent.

INTEGRITY Plagiarism is not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read:
📧 web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

- SURVEY Please complete a *course experience survey* (CES) at ces.uvic.ca.
- DISABILITY Consult with CAL and instructor at start of term.

SCHEDULE

(Tentative: see website for updates.)

REALITY

	† RAVEN, <i>Philosophy & Logic Primer</i>	
SEP7	Introduction	
11	• BOGHOSSIAN, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i>	Chapters 1-2
14		Chapter 3
18		Chapter 4
21	• MASON, "The Metaphysics of Social Kinds"	

MATTER

SEP25	• BERKELEY, <i>Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i>	§§1-2
28		
OCT2	• RUSSELL, "Idealism"	

GOD

	† CONEE & SIDER, <i>Riddles of Existence</i> , chapter 4,2	
OCT5	• CRAIG & MORELAND, "The <i>Kalām</i> Cosmological Argument"	
12	• PALEY, "The Watchmaker Argument"	
16	• STUMP, "The Mirror of Evil"	

FREE WILL

	† CONEE & SIDER, <i>Riddles of Existence</i> , chapter 6	
OCT19	• D'HOLBACH, "The Illusion of Free Will"	
23	• CHISHOLM, "Human Freedom and the Self"	
26	• LIBET, "Do We Have Free Will?"	
	• ROSKIES, "Neuroscientific Challenges to Free Will and Responsibility"	

PERSONS

	† CONEE & SIDER, <i>Riddles of Existence</i> , chapter 1	
OCT30	• LOCKE, <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	Book II, Chapter 27
NOV2		
6	• APPIAH, "But Would That Still Be Me?"	

MIND

NOV9	• DESCARTES, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> ,	Meditations I-II,VI
16	• PRINCESS ELISABETH/DESCARTES, <i>Letters</i> ,	6.v.1643–1.vii.1643
20	• KRIPKE, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> , Lecture III	pp. 111-116,144-155

SPACE & TIME

	† CONEE & SIDER, <i>Riddles of Existence</i> , chapter 3	
NOV23	• SMART, "The Space-time World"	
27	• PRIOR, "Changes in Events and Things"	
30		