

INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS

PHIL252 (AO1)

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	ELL 061, Monday & Thursday 11:30am-12:50pm
INSTRUCTOR	DR Mike Raven (✉ mike@mikeraven.net • 📧 mikeraven.net)
OFFICE HOURS	CLE B323 Monday 2:30-4:30pm, or by appointment.
ASSISTANT	Kaitlyn Berry (✉ kaitlynjberry@uvic.ca)
WEBSITE	📄 coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=51692
TEXTS	R † CONEE & SIDER, <i>Riddles of Existence (New Edition)</i> BOGHOSSIAN, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i>

EVALUATION

GRADES	The grade you earn is determined by the quality of your work in this course. The university's scale is used: A ⁺ 90 A ⁸⁹⁻⁸⁵ A ⁻⁸⁴⁻⁸⁰ B ⁺ 79-77 B ⁷⁶⁻⁷³ B ⁻⁷²⁻⁷⁰ C ⁺ 69-65 C ⁶⁴⁻⁶⁰ D ⁵⁹⁻⁵⁰ F ^{<50}
WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 problem sets (75%): <i>Due (tentative):</i> SEP21, OCT12, NOV5, NOV19, DEC 7• Checkpoints (20%): Best 7 of 10 unscheduled in-class assignments.• Participation (5%): Evidence of engagement with the course.
RUBRIC	Work is evaluated for craftsmanship, in accordance with the guidelines in: 📄 mikeraven.net/teaching/[Raven]PhilosophyRubric.pdf
ACCESSIBILITY	All accessibility accommodations should be arranged by CAL. Other requests for accommodations (e.g. extensions, extra credit, alternate or make-up assignments) will <i>not</i> be considered, except under extraordinary circumstances (instructor's discretion) and with apt documentation.
GRACE POINTS	Each student begins with 5 grace points . Each point can be used to delay a due date by 1 day. Points can be used in any combination at the students' discretion. Inform the instructor in writing how many points are used upon submission (no justification needed). Points cannot be reused, traded, or earned.
LATENESS	Late work is penalized 5% per day late and is not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

CONDUCT	Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be prepared. Read the syllabus. Do the reading before class. Attend class.• Be respectful. In class, don't bully or distract. In work, follow RUBRIC §3.4.• Be professional. Check sources first (don't expect replies to questions answered by the syllabus). Follow etiquette. Allow time for replies.
RECORDINGS	Recordings permitted only with instructor's prior consent. Do not distribute.
GUESTS	Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.
INTEGRITY	Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read: 📄 web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

SCHEDULE

Tentative: see website for updates.

INTRODUCTION

SEP 6 | Introduction

REALITY

† [RAVEN, *Philosophy & Logic Primer*](#)

- SEP 10 • BOGHOSSIAN, *Fear of Knowledge* [chapters 1-2]
- 13 • BOGHOSSIAN, *Fear of Knowledge* [chapter 3]
- 17 • BOGHOSSIAN, *Fear of Knowledge* [chapter 4]

MATTER

† [RAVEN, *Philosophy & Logic Primer*](#)

- SEP 20,24 • [BERKELEY, *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*](#) [§§1-2]
- 27 • RUSSELL, “Idealism”

KINDS

- OCT 1 • [FINE, “Essence and Modality”](#) [1-3]
- [KRIPKE, *Naming and Necessity*](#) [110-116]
- 4 • [WITT, “Anti-Essentialism in Feminist Theory”](#)
- 11 • [APPIAH, “But Would That Still Be Me?”](#)

PERSONS

† CONEE & SIDER, “Personal Identity” [R1]

- OCT 15,18 • [DESCARTES, *Meditations on First Philosophy*](#) [I,II,VI]
- [PRINCESS ELISABETH/DSCARTES, *Letters*](#) [6.v.1643-1.ii.1643]
- 22,25 • [LOCKE, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*](#) [book II, chapter 27]
- 29 • UNGER, “I Do Not Exist”

FREE WILL

† CONEE & SIDER, “Free Will and Determinism” [R6]

- NOV 1,5 • D’HOLBACH, “The Illusion of Free Will”
- 8 • CHISHOLM, “Human Freedom and the Self”
- 15 • [LIBET, “Do We Have Free Will?”](#)
- [ROSKIES, “Neuroscientific Challenges to Free Will and Responsibility”](#)

GOD

† CONEE & SIDER, “God” [R4]

- NOV 19 • PALEY, “The Watchmaker Argument”
- 22 • [STUMP, “The Mirror of Evil”](#)
- 26 • CRAIG & MORELAND, “The *Kalām* Cosmological Argument”

TIME

† CONEE & SIDER, “Fatalism” [R2] & “Time” [R3]

- NOV 29 • PRIOR, “The Notion of the Present”
- PRIOR, “Some Free Thinking about Time”
- DEC 3 • [SMART, “The River of Time”](#)

SURVEY

At the end of the term, please complete a *course experience survey* (CES) at [✉ ces.uvic.ca](mailto:ces.uvic.ca).