

METAPHYSICS

PHIL352 (A01)

Metaphysics concerns the nature of reality. This intermediate course surveys: space, properties, existence, cause, possibility, objects, persistence, and time.

PREREQUISITES	PHIL203 + 3 units of philosophy, or permission.
PLACE/TIME	Remote instruction with asynchronous (↔) and synchronous (⌚) components. Synchronous components will be held “in-class” on Wednesdays 3:30-6:20 _{PM} .
INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Mike Raven (✉ raven@uvic.ca • 🌐 mikeraven.net) OFFICE HOURS • via Zoom Mon/Wed 2:00-3:00 _{PM} or by appointment on weekdays.
LMS	🌐 bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/50945 (Consult for all official course documents.)
TEXTS	— BEFORE BUYING: TEXTS ARE ON RESERVE AND MANY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE — R • Conee & Sider, <i>Riddles of Existence (New Edition)</i> M • Kim, Korman, & Sosa (eds.), <i>Metaphysics (2nd ed.)</i> K • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i>

EVALUATION

RUBRIC	The grades (📄 UVic's scale) you earn are determined by the philosophical craftsmanship of your work for this course according to the RUBRIC: 🌐 mikeraven.net/teaching/Rubric.pdf
WORK	📄 ESSAYS [50%] By the levels system, to be submitted prior to a MILESTONE. (↔) 🌐 mikeraven.net/teaching/Levels System.pdf ☑ CHECKPOINTS [20%] Best 7 of 10 short online assignments. (↔) 🕒 ENGAGEMENT [30%] By online forum (↔) or “in-class” videoconference (⌚). 🌐 mikeraven.net/teaching/Engagement.pdf
GRACE POINTS	A grace point delays an essay due date by 1 day. They may be used in any combination without justification. Students start with 5 and cannot reuse, trade, or earn any.
LATENESS	No work submitted after a due date will be accepted, except for appropriate accessibility reasons (see ACCESSIBILITY).

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. Don't bully or distract others.• Be professional. Check sources. Follow etiquette. Allow 1 day for replies.
ACCESSIBILITY	Arrange accommodations with CAL . Other accommodation requests (e.g. extra credit, extensions, alternate/make-up work) will <i>not</i> be considered, except in extraordinary cases (instructor's discretion) and when both the request and documentation are received within 3 days of the due date.
GUESTS	Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.
INTEGRITY	Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read: 🌐 www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/
COPYRIGHT	<i>All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).</i>

SCHEDULE

Read all assigned readings *before* each class (including SEP 9).

Consult [LMS](#) for updates.

SPACE

⊕	SEP 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dasgupta, "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics" • Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles" 	601-13 M8
↕	SEP 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 1 	
EXISTENCE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Universals" 	R8
⊕	SEP 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quine, "On What There is" 	M1
⊕	SEP 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell, "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars" • Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" 	M22 M24: §§1-3
⊕	SEP 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" • Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" 	M24: §§4-8 M23: to 314(355)
↕	OCT 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 2 	
CAUSE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 	R9: 183-92
⊕	OCT 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" • Davis, "Counterfactuals" • Lewis, "Causation" 	M23: § "Laws" M29
⊕	OCT 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" 	M28
↕	OCT 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 3 	
MODALITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 	R9: 192-8
⊕	OCT 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> • Plantinga, "Modalities: Basic Concepts and Distinctions" • Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" 	K: 34-53 M14: §1 M16: skip §1.4
⊕	OCT 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> • Fine, "Essence and Modality" 	K: 106-16 M19
↕	NOV 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 4 	
IDENTITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 	R7: 136-49
⊕	NOV 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> • Gibbard, "Contingent Identity" 	K: 97-105 M11: §§1-4
⊕	NOV 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibbard, "Contingent Identity" • Baker, "Why Constitution is not Identity" • Fine, "A Counter-Example to Locke's Thesis" 	M11: §§5-8
↕	NOV 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 5 	
PERSISTENCE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 	R7: 149-55
⊕	NOV 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quine, "Identity, Ostension, and Hypostasis" • Thomson, "Parthood and Identity Across Time" • Lewis, "The Problem of Temporary Intrinsic" 	M34: §I M35: §§I-V M37
TIME		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Time" 	R3
⊕	DEC 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hinchliff, "The Puzzle of Change" • Hawley, "Metaphysics and Relativity" 	
↕	DEC 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILESTONE 6 	