

Introduction to Metaphysics

PHIL252 (AO1)

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

OUTCOMES Improve philosophical skills ([RUBRIC](#)) with training on current metaphysical topics.
↳ Fulfill unit requirement for the [Philosophy Major Program](#).

PREREQUISITES None.

INSTRUCTION Monday/Thursday 1:00-2:20^{PM} **TBA** **FACE-TO-FACE**

INSTRUCTOR Professor Mike Raven (raven@uvic.ca | raven.site)
OFFICE HOURS | Tuesday 1:00-2:30^{PM} CLE B323 (or by appointment)

LMS bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/490489 (Consult for updates and current course documents.)

TEXTS
REQUIRED + Boghossian, *Fear of Knowledge*
REQUIRED + Chalmers, *Reality+*
OPTIONAL ○ [Connee & Sider, Riddles of Existence \(new edition\)](#)

EVALUATION

GRADES Completing all assignments completes the course. Incomplete assignments earn a failing N course grade. [Grades](#) earned are assessed for craftsmanship ([RUBRIC](#)).

%	ASSIGNMENT	COMPLETION	GRACE	MODE
1	 Integrity in Practice	Submission	+	
50	 Essays	Submission	+	
33	 Checkpoints	Submitting any 12 (of 23)	×	
16	 Engagement	Submitting ≥6 posts and ≥6 replies	×	

GRACE POINTS A **grace point** delays the due date of a +-assignment by 24 hours. Each student begins with 5 grace points. These may be used in any combination without justification, but cannot be reused or traded. To use, state the number used on your submitted work.

LATENESS Submissions are penalized 5% per day past the due date. Submissions received after 5 days after the original due date become pass(50)/fail(49) and are not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

RESPECT Enrolling binds you to a [social contract](#) with your instructor and classmates. Create a [respectful, inclusive, and productive learning environment](#). Don't bully or distract others. Use devices only for class purposes. No guests without instructor's permission.

PREPARE Know course documents. Read required texts *before* class. Allow time for email replies.

DATES Be aware of important dates. Consult LMS and [calendar](#) (for last add/drop dates).

ENGAGE [Class attendance is expected](#). Use office hours and tutorials.

INTEGRITY Know UVic's [academic integrity](#) policies.

AI The use of [AI](#) is prohibited for all evaluated work (unless explicitly allowed).

PLANS [Academic concessions](#) must be by official request. [Accommodation of religious observance](#) must be in advance. Inform instructor of [CAL](#) plans (these are not blanket extensions and do not replace grace points, concessions, or other accommodations).

PRIVACY Classes are not recorded/streamed. No unauthorized recording/streaming.

COPYRIGHT Course content/materials are [protected by copyright law](#).

INFO [Student conduct](#) | [Equity](#) | [Discrimination and harassment](#) | [Sexualized violence](#)

RESOURCES [Learn Anywhere](#) | [Student Wellness](#) | [IACE](#) | [Ombudsperson](#)

SCHEDULE

DATE	READINGS	DUE	MODE
Introduction			
SEP 10	+ Raven, <i>Philosophy & Logic Primer</i>		👤
Reality			
SEP 14	+ Boghossian, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i> chapters 1-2	☑01	👤
SEP 17	+ Boghossian, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i> chapter 2	☑02	👤
SEP 21	+ Boghossian, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i> chapter 3	☑03 👤IP	👤
SEP 24	+ Boghossian, <i>Fear of Knowledge</i> chapter 4	☑04	👤
SEP 28	+ Passinsky, "Social Objects, Response-Dependence, and Realism"	☑05	👤
Virtual Reality			
OCT 1	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 1 and pages 107-119,230-234	☑06	👤
OCT 5	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 2	☑07	👤
OCT 8	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 6	☑08	👤
OCT 15	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 8	☑09	👤
OCT 19	o Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i> pages 1-30	☑10	👤
God			
OCT 22	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 7	☑11	👤
OCT 26	o Conee & Sider, "God"	☑12	👤
Persons			
OCT 29	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> chapter 14 o Princess Elisabeth/Descartes, <i>Letters</i> 6.v.1643-1.ii.1643	☑13	✕
NOV 2	+ Unger, "I Do Not Exist" o Conee & Sider, "Personal Identity"	☑14	👤
NOV 5	+ Thomson, "People and their Bodies"	☑15	👤
NOV 12	+ Chalmers, <i>Reality+</i> 219-223	☑16	👤
NOV 16	+ Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> pages 110-115 + Appiah, "But Would That Still Be Me?"	☑17	👤
Free Will			
NOV 19	+ Van Inwagen, "The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism"	☑18	👤
NOV 23	o Conee & Sider "Free Will and Determinism", "Fatalism"	☑19	👤
NOV 26	+ Wolf, "Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility"	☑20	👤
Time			
DEC 1	+ Smart, "The Space-Time World" o Conee & Sider "Time"	☑21	👤
DEC 3	+ Prior, "The Notion of the Present"	☑22	👤
Side Quests			
DEC 7	<i>to be determined</i>	☑23	👤