

Metaphysics

PHIL352 (AO1)

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

OUTCOMES	Improve philosophical skills (RUBRIC) with training on core metaphysical topics. ↳ Fulfills 1.5 unit requirement 2.d of the Philosophy Major Program .
PREREQUISITES	PHIL203 (or equivalent) and 3 units of philosophy, or permission.
INSTRUCTION	Tuesday 4:30-7:20 ^{PM} 📖 CLE A208 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/359698 (Consult for updates and current course documents.)
TEXTS	📖 REQUIRED • Kim, Korman, & Sosa (eds.), Metaphysics (2nd ed.) [M] 📖 REQUIRED • Kripke, Naming and Necessity (50th anniversary edition) 📖 OPTIONAL ▫ Conee & Sider, Riddles of Existence (new edition)

EVALUATION

GRADES	Completing all essential work (▶) completes the course. Omitting essential work earns a failing N course grade. Grades earned are assessed for craftsmanship (RUBRIC).
WORK	▶ INTEGRITY Integrity in Practice DUE: LMS; ▶INT on SCHEDULE ▶ PROBLEM SETS [1/2] 2 essay assignments DUE: LMS; ▶PS on SCHEDULE ▷ CHECKPOINTS [1/3] Best 8 of 11 submissions DUE: in class; ✓ on SCHEDULE ▷ ENGAGEMENT [1/6] Weekly forum contribution: ≥6 posts and ≥6 replies for the term.
GRACE POINTS	A grace point delays the due date of an essential work by 1 day. 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 when submitting your work.
LATENESS	Submissions are penalized 5% per day past the due date. Submissions received after 5 days past 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 texts before class. Budget time for email replies.
ENGAGE	Class attendance is expected . Use office hours and tutorials.
INTEGRITY	Know UVic's academic integrity policies. GenAI is prohibited (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	Information for all students student conduct non-academic student misconduct equity and human rights sexualized violence discrimination and harassment
RESOURCES	Learn Anywhere Student Wellness IACE Ombudsperson

SCHEDULE

Required texts (•) *must* be read *before* each class. **Optional texts** (°) are also most usefully read *before* each class.
Dates are tentative; consult LMS for updates. See www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/ for important dates (last add/drop dates).

SPACE	
SEP 10	• Dasgupta, "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics" 601-613 • Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles" [M8]
PROPERTIES	
SEP 17 ✓01	• Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§1-3 • Campbell, "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars" [M22] §§1-5,7-8
SEP 24 ✓02	• Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§4-8 • Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] to 314 (to 355)
SEP 30	►INT
EXISTENCE	
OCT 1 ✓03	• Quine, "On What There Is" [M1] • Campbell, "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars" [M22] §6
PERSISTENCE ° Conee & Sider, "Constitution"	
OCT 8 ✓04	• Thomson, "Parthood and Identity Across Time" [M35] §§I-V • Lewis, "The Problem of Temporary Intrinsics" [M37]
OCT 15 ✓05	• Hinchliff, "The Puzzle of Change" • Hawley, "Metaphysics and Relativity"
OCT 21	►PS1
CAUSE ° Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 183-192	
OCT 22 ✓06	• Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] 320-322 (365-370) • Schaffer, "Causation and Laws of Nature: Reductionism" • Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" [M28] §I
MODALITY ° Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 192-198	
OCT 29 ✓07	• Sider, "Reductive Theories of Modality" §§1-3.6 • Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" [M16] §§1.1,1.6-1.9 • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 34-39
NOV 5 ✓08	• Sider, "Reductive Theories of Modality" §§3.5,3.10 • Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" [M16] §1.2 up to p.214 • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 40-53
NOV 12	NO CLASS
NOV 19 ✓09	• Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 106-116 • Fine, "Essence and Modality" [M19] 255-261
IDENTITY ° Conee & Sider, "Constitution"	
NOV 26 ✓10	• Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 97-105 • Gibbard, "Contingent Identity" [M11] §§I-V • Baker, "Why Constitution is not Identity" §§I-IV • Fine, "A Counter-Example to Locke's Thesis"
DEC 3 ✓11	• Ritchie, "The Metaphysics of Social Groups" • Fine, "The Identity of Social Groups"
DEC 9	►PS2