Metaphysics

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  TBA FACE-TO-FACE
- Professor Mike Raven (raven@uvic.ca • raven.site)
- OFFICE HOURS • TBA (or appointment)  CLE B323

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
- Online courses: Integrity Matters and Integrity in Practice.
- ▼ PROBLEM SETS [1/6]
- Short essay assignments (due dates: TBA)
- ▼ CHECKPOINTS [1/6]
- Best 7 of 10 reading comprehension quizzes.
- ▼ 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
- Unaccommodated late work submitted more than 5 days past the due date earns pass(50)/fail(49) credit and is not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

CONDUCT
- Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates.
  - Be prepared. Consult course documents. Read assigned text before class.
  - Be engaged. Class attendance is expected. Use office hours and tutorials.
  - Be respectful. Don't bully or distract others. Use devices only for class purposes.
  - Be professional. Check sources first. Follow etiquette. Allow time for replies.
  - Exhibit academic integrity. Using GenAI is prohibited (unless explicitly allowed).

PLANS
- Accessibility plans must be made through the Centre for Accessible Learning.
- All academic concessions must be made by official request.

RECORDINGS
- Classes are not recorded/streamed. No unauthorized recording/streaming.

GUESTS
- Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.

COPYRIGHT
- Course content/materials are protected by copyright law.

RESOURCES

LEARN ANYWHERE
- For student and academic support services.

WELLNESS
- Maintain your well-being! If your symptoms are course-related, speak to the instructor.
SCHEDULE

Consult [www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates](http://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates) for important dates (including last add/drop dates).

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>SPACE</th>
<th>Properties</th>
<th>Existence</th>
<th>Persistence</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>MODALITY</th>
<th>Identity</th>
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</table>
| SEP 10 | Dasgupta, “Substantialism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics”  601-613  
Campbell, “The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars” [M22] §§1-5,7-8  
Armstrong, “Universals as Attributes” [M24] §§4-8  
Schaffer, “Causation and Laws of Nature: Reductionism”  
Anscome, “Causality and Determination” [M28] §I | Sider, “Reducive Theories of Modality” §§1-3  
Lewis, “A Philosopher's Paradise” [M16] §§1.1,1.6-1.9  
Kripke, Naming and Necessity  34-39 | Kripke, Naming and Necessity  97-105  
Baker, “Why Constitution is not Identity” §§I-IV  
Fine, “A Counter-Example to Locke's Thesis”  
Ritchie, “The Metaphysics of Social Groups”  
Fine, “The Identity of Social Groups” |