

METAPHYSICS

PHIL352 (AO1)

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

PREREQUISITES	PHIL203 (or equivalent) and 3 units of philosophy, or permission.
INSTRUCTOR	Professor Mike Raven (✉ raven@uvic.ca • raven.site) OFFICE HOURS • Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 _{PM} Remote (JAN 10-24) (or by appointment) On campus (after JAN 24) in CLE B323
INSTRUCTION	Wednesdays 3:30-6:20 _{PM} Remote (JAN 10-24) On campus (after JAN 24) in CLE A207
LMS	bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/155446 (Consult for updates and current course documents.)
TEXTS	• REQUIRED (online) Conee & Sider, Riddles of Existence (new edition) • REQUIRED (purchase) Kim, Korman, & Sosa (eds.), Metaphysics (2nd ed.) • REQUIRED (purchase) Kripke, Naming and Necessity

EVALUATION

RUBRIC	Grades (UVic's scale) you earn are determined by the philosophical craftsmanship of your work for this course according to the RUBRIC: raven.site/teaching/Rubric.pdf
WORK	✦ INTEGRITY MATTERS Short online course on academic integrity. ✦ PROBLEM SETS [2/3] 3 short essay assignments (see SCHEDULE for due dates). ↗ CHECKPOINTS [1/6] Best 7 of 10 online reading comprehension quizzes. ↗ ENGAGEMENT [1/6] In-class, office hours, or forum: raven.site/teaching/Engagement.pdf A failing N grade will be earned if any essential work (✦) is not completed.
GRACE POINTS	A grace point delays the due date of an essential work (✦) by 1 day. 5 are allotted and may be used in any combination without justification, but cannot be reused, traded, or earned. To use # grace points, write '# grace points' at the beginning of your submission.
LATENESS	Work submitted after a due date will <i>not</i> be accepted (see ACCESSIBILITY for exceptions).

POLICIES

CONDUCT	Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates. www.uvic.ca/services/advising/advice-support/academic-units/student-code-of-conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be prepared. Consult course documents. Read assigned text before class.• Be engaged. Attend class. Use office hours and tutorials.• Be respectful. Don't bully or distract others.• Be professional. Check sources first. Follow etiquette. Allow ≥1 day for replies.• Demonstrate academic integrity: www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/
REQUESTS	Accessibility arrangements must be made with CAL (see RESOURCES). Other requests (extra credit, extensions, alternate/makeup work) will <i>not</i> be considered, except by for extraordinary cases (instructor's discretion; e.g. <i>not</i> technical/wifi issues) and when the request (and documents, if any are required) is received within 3 days of the due date.
GUESTS	Guests permitted only with instructor's prior consent.
COPYRIGHT	Course content/materials are protected by copyright law: www.uvic.ca/library/research-teaching/copyright

RESOURCES

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT	We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷánan peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSA NEC peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For more information and support: www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/
ACCESSIBILITY	For accessibility support, consult the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL): www.uvic.ca/services/cal/
WELLNESS	Take care of your mental and physical well-being! If your symptoms are related to this course, then please speak with the instructor. For cost-free, confidential support: www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/
LEARN ANYWHERE	For student and academic support services: onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/

SCHEDULE


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

Required texts (•) must be read *before* each class (including JAN 12).




Consult the **STUDY GUIDE** (on the [LMS](#)) for guidance on topics to be discussed.

Dates are tentative; consult [LMS](#) for updates.




SPACE

 JAN 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dasgupta, "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics", 601-13 • Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles" [M8]
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EXISTENCE

 JAN 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quine, "On What There is" [M1]
 JAN 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell, "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars" [M22] • Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§1-3
 FEB 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§4-8 • Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] to 314(355)




CAUSE

 FEB 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 183-92 • Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] § "Laws" • Davis, "Counterfactuals" • Lewis, "Causation" [M29]
 FEB 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ DUE: PROBLEM SET 1
 FEB 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" [M28]


MODALITY

 MAR 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 192-8 • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 34-53 • Plantinga, "Modalities: Basic Concepts and Distinctions" [M14] §1 • Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" [M16] skip §1.4
 MAR 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 106-16 • Fine, "Essence and Modality" [M19]



IDENTITY

 MAR 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 136-49 • Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 97-105 • Gibbard, "Contingent Identity" [M11] §§1-4
 MAR 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ DUE: PROBLEM SET 2
 MAR 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibbard, "Contingent Identity" [M11] §§5-8 • Baker, "Why Constitution is not Identity" • Fine, "A Counter-Example to Locke's Thesis"

PERSISTENCE

 MAR 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 149-55 • Quine, "Identity, Ostension, and Hypostasis" [M34] §I • Thomson, "Parthood and Identity Across Time" [M35] §§I-V • Lewis, "The Problem of Temporary Intrinsic" [M37]
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TIME

 APR 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conee & Sider, "Time" • Hinchliff, "The Puzzle of Change" • Hawley, "Metaphysics and Relativity"
 APR 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ DUE: PROBLEM SET 3