

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} in CLE B323 or weekdays by appointment.

INSTRUCTION On campus: Wednesdays 3:30-6:20^{PM} 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 *not* be accepted (see **ACCESSIBILITY** for exceptions).

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.** 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 *not* be considered, except by for extraordinary cases (instructor's discretion; e.g. *not* 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.

RESOURCES

INDIGENOUS SUPPORT We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəṣən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSANEC 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/

COPYRIGHT Course content/materials are protected by copyright law: www.uvic.ca/library/research-teaching/copyright

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).

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

SPACE

- JAN 12
- [Dasgupta, "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics"](#), 601-13
 - Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles" [M8]
 - ✦ MILESTONE 1

EXISTENCE

- Conee & Sider, "Universals"
- JAN 19
- [Quine, "On What There is"](#) [M1]
- JAN 26
- [Campbell, "The Metaphysic of Abstract Particulars"](#) [M22]
 - Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§1-3
- FEB 2
- Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§4-8
 - [Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals"](#) [M23] to 314(355)
 - ✦ MILESTONE 2

CAUSE

- Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 183-92
- FEB 9
- [Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals"](#) [M23] § "Laws"
 - Davis, "Counterfactuals"
 - [Lewis, "Causation"](#) [M29]
- FEB 16
- Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" [M28]
 - ✦ MILESTONE 3

MODALITY

- Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 192-8
- MAR 2
- Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* 34-53
 - Plantinga, "Modalities: Basic Concepts and Distinctions" [M14] §1
 - Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" [M16] skip §1.4
- MAR 9
- Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* 106-16
 - [Fine, "Essence and Modality"](#) [M19]
 - ✦ MILESTONE 4

IDENTITY

- Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 136-49
- MAR 16
- Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* 97-105
 - [Gibbard, "Contingent Identity"](#) [M11] §§1-4
- MAR 23
- [Gibbard, "Contingent Identity"](#) [M11] §§5-8
 - [Baker, "Why Constitution is not Identity"](#)
 - [Fine, "A Counter-Example to Locke's Thesis"](#)
 - ✦ MILESTONE 5

PERSISTENCE

- Conee & Sider, "Constitution" 149-55
- MAR 30
- [Quine, "Identity, Ostension, and Hypostasis"](#) [M34] §I
 - [Thomson, "Parthood and Identity Across Time"](#) [M35] §§I-V
 - Lewis, "The Problem of Temporary Intrinsic" [M37]

TIME

- Conee & Sider, "Time"
- APR 6
- [Hinchliff, "The Puzzle of Change"](#)
 - [Hawley, "Metaphysics and Relativity"](#)
 - ✦ MILESTONE 6