

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.

INSTRUCTION Tuesday 4:30-7:20PM 🏢 **TBA** **IN-PERSON ONLY**

INSTRUCTOR Professor Mike Raven (raven@uvic.ca • raven.site) **OFFICE**
HOURS • **TBA** (or appointment) 🏢 CLE B323

LMS bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/##### (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 Students have completed the course upon their completion of all essential work (▶). A failing N course grade is earned if any essential work is not completed. All work earns a [grade](#) based on its craftsmanship ([RUBRIC](#)).

WORK ▶ **INTEGRITY** Online courses: [Integrity Matters](#) and [Integrity in Practice](#).
▶ **PROBLEM SETS** [2/3] 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.

Work will be listed on, and submitted to, the LMS.

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 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.
• **Demonstrate [academic integrity](#).** Learn the policies. Ignorance is no excuse.

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

[LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT](#) We acknowledge and respect the [lək̓ʷəŋən](#) peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

[WELLNESS](#) Take care of your mental and physical well-being! If your symptoms are related to this course, then please speak with the instructor.

[LEARN ANYWHERE](#) For student and academic support services.

SCHEDULE

Consult 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.

SPACE	
SEP 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dasgupta, "Substantivalism vs. Relationalism About Space in Classical Physics" 601-613• Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles" [M8]
PROPERTIES	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Universals" 156-174
SEP 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§1-3• Campbell, "The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars" [M22] §§1-5,7-8
SEP 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes" [M24] §§4-8• Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] to 314 (ORIGINAL PAGINATION: to 355)
EXISTENCE	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Universals" 154-156,174-182
OCT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quine, "On What There Is" [M1]• Campbell, "The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars" [M22] §6
PERSISTENCE	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Constitution"
OCT 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thomson, "Parthood and Identity Across Time" [M35] §§I-V• Lewis, "The Problem of Temporary Intrinsics" [M37]
OCT 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hinchliff, "The Puzzle of Change"• Hawley, "Metaphysics and Relativity"
CAUSE	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 183-192
OCT 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lewis, "New Work for a Theory of Universals" [M23] 320-322 (ORIGINAL PAGINATION: 365-370)• Schaffer, "Causation and Laws of Nature: Reductionism"• Anscombe, "Causality and Determination" [M28] §I
MODALITY	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Possibility & Necessity" 192-198
OCT 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sider, "Reductive Theories of Modality" §§1-3• Lewis, "A Philosopher's Paradise" [M16] §§1.1,1.6-1.9• Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 34-39
NOV 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kripke, <i>Naming and Necessity</i> 106-116• Fine, "Essence and Modality" [M19] 255-261
IDENTITY	
	◦ Conee & Sider, "Constitution"
NOV 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ritchie, "The Metaphysics of Social Groups"• Fine, "The Identity of Social Groups"