

NAÏVE METAPHYSICS

PHIL490 (AO1)

Metaphysics is traditionally conceived as “the study of ultimate reality”, where “reality” contrasts with “appearance” and “ultimate” implies a foundation upon which all appearances rest. The traditional conception explains the prominence in the recent literature of “foundational metaphysics” and its fixation on the fundamental. And yet reality does not present itself to us via the fundamental, but rather via the naïve appearances of ordinary objects, artifacts, social phenomena, and the like. Because foundational metaphysics does not provide a “naïve metaphysics” of these appearances, it risks being irrelevant to what interests us most. This seminar will explore these large-scale issues about metaphysics in general by focusing on the “naïve metaphysics” of social phenomena and artifacts in particular.

PREREQUISITES	PHIL203 + 3 units of philosophy, or permission.
PLACE/TIME	CLE B315, Monday 3:30pm-6:20pm (<i>spring 2017</i>)
INSTRUCTOR	DR Mike Raven (✉ mike@mikeraven.net • 🌐 mikeraven.net)
OFFICE HOURS	CLE B323 Monday 1:00-3:00pm, or by appointment.
WEBSITE	🌐 coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=26510
TEXTS	E • EPSTEIN, <i>The Ant Trap</i>

EVALUATION

RUBRIC	The RUBRIC discusses the skilled craftsmanship to be trained in this class, and offers guidelines on how to apply it in class and in your work. Consult the RUBRIC repeatedly throughout the term: 🌐 mikeraven.net/teaching/[Raven] Philosophy Rubric.pdf
WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term paper (70%) <u>Due (tentative):</u> APR10• Participation (30%): Engagement with the course, including: contributions to class and online forum, communication with the instructor, and class presentations/discussion leading.
GRADES	The grade you earn depends on your work in this course. All work is needed to pass. No extra credit. Work is evaluated for craftsmanship (see RUBRIC) on the scale: A+ >90 A 89-85 A- 84-80 B+ 79-77 B 76-73 B- 72-70 C+ 69-65 C 64-60 D 59-50 F <50
LATENESS	If you do not expect to complete an assignment on time, inform the instructor and then submit what you have done on time. Extensions must be requested before due date and expire by return date (exceptions only at the instructor’s discretion). Unextended late work is penalized 5 points/day and is not entitled to feedback.

POLICIES

CONDUCT	Enrolling binds you to a social contract: be professional and respectful in class (e.g. don’t bully, distract) and in your work (see RUBRIC §3.4).
CONTACT	When seeking guidance, communicate professionally: first check official sources (syllabus, website, RUBRIC), and budget time for replies.
RECORDING	Audio/visual recordings require instructor’s prior consent, or an approved accommodation plan. Do not distribute recordings publicly.

- GUESTS** Guests are not permitted without instructor's prior consent.
- INTEGRITY** Plagiarism is not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read:
 ☐ web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html
- SURVEY** Please complete a *course experience survey* (CES) at ☐ ces.uvic.ca.
- DISABILITY** Consult with the Resource Center and instructor at start of term.

SCHEDULE

Tentative: see website for updates.

NAÏVE METAPHYSICS

JAN9	no class (rescheduled)	
JAN13	rescheduled seminar (CLE B215, 3:30-6:20PM)	
	• FINE, "Naïve Metaphysics"	

SOCIAL REALITY

JAN16	• SEARLE, <i>The Construction of Social Reality</i> <i>chapters 1-2</i>
	• THOMASSON, "Foundations for a Social Ontology"
23	E • EPSTEIN, <i>The Ant Trap</i> <i>chapters 1-4</i>
	E • EPSTEIN, <i>The Ant Trap</i> <i>chapters 5-7</i>
30	• RAVEN, "Ground" § 3.2-3.3
	• RAVEN, "New Work for a Theory of Ground"
	• GRIFFITH, "Social Construction and Grounding"
FEB6	E • EPSTEIN, <i>The Ant Trap</i> <i>chapters 8-9</i>
	• SCHAFFER, "Anchoring as Grounding: On Epstein's <i>The Ant Trap</i>"

GROUPS

FEB20	• UZQUIANO, "The Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Justices: A Metaphysical Puzzle"	
	• EFFINGHAM, "The Metaphysics of Groups"	
	• RITCHIE, "What are Groups?"	
27	E • EPSTEIN, <i>The Ant Trap</i> <i>chapters 10-13</i>	
MAR6	• RITCHIE, "The Metaphysics of Social Groups"	
	• THOMASSON, "The Ontology of Social Groups"	

ARTIFACTS

MAR13	• ELDER, "On the Place of Artifacts in Ontology"	
	• THOMASSON, "Artifacts and Human Concepts"	
20	Guest lecture: Dr. Cameron	
	• EVNINE, "Varieties of Hylomorphism"	
	• FINE, "Acts, Events, and Things"	
27	• FINE, "Things and Their Parts"	
	• KOSLICKI, "Towards a Neo-Aristotelian Mereology"	
	• FINE, "Response to Kathrin Koslicki"	
APR3	• EVNINE, <i>Making Objects and Events</i> <i>chapters 2.3; 3</i>	
	• RAVEN, "Essences of Artifacts"	