

PHIL 3800 Metaphysics
(Tentative Syllabus)

Teacher: Wong Kai Yee

M07-08 UCC C4

Course Description:

This course is intended to examine some of the traditional problems in metaphysics from a contemporary, analytic perspective. It is assumed that each student already possesses a basic understanding of formal logic and analytic skills, though this course also aims to develop such skills through the rigorous examination of the arguments concerning metaphysical issues.

Topics:

(Introduction plus 5 topics to be chosen from II to VII)

I. Introduction

II. Existence and Universals

III. Personal Identity

IV. The Mental and The Physical

V. Freedom of the Will

VI. Possibilities and Necessities

VII. Causation or Realism vs Anti-realism

Assessment

The grading of the course will be based on the following:

1. Tutorial contribution and participation
2. Examination/Test
3. Essay

Selected Bibliography

1. Aristotle, *Categories, Metaphysics 7-9*
2. Armstrong, David, *A Theory of Universals*

3. Aune, Bruce, *Metaphysics*
4. Block, Ned, *et al*, *The Nature of Consciousness*.
5. Borst, C.V., *The Mind/Brain Identity Theory*
6. Campbell, *Body and Mind*
7. Campbell, Keith, *Metaphysics: An Introduction*
8. Descartes, R., *Meditations on First Philosophy*
9. Dummett, Michael, *Truth and Other Enigmas*
10. Gallois, Andre, *Occasions of Identity: A Study in the Metaphysics of Persistence, Change, and Sameness*
11. Grayling, A.C., *An Introduction to Philosophical Logic*
12. Greene, Brian, *The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory*
13. Heil, J., *Philosophy of Mind*
14. Hoy and Oaklander (eds.), *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*
15. Huggett, Nick, *Space from Zeno to Einstein*
16. Hume, D., *A Treatise of Human Nature*
17. Kant, I., *Critique of Pure Reason*
18. Kim, J., *Philosophy of Mind*
19. Lewis, David, *Philosophical Papers, Vol. 1 and Vol. II*
20. Mackie, J.L., *Miracle of Theism*
21. Mackie, J.L., *The Cement of the Universe*
22. McGinn, C., *The Characters of Mind*
23. McGinn, C., *The Mysterious Flame*
24. Moser, Paul, *Reality In Focus: Contemporary Readings on Metaphysics*
25. Parfit, Derek, *Reasons and Persons*
26. Perry, John, *Personal Identity*
27. Plato, *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*
28. Quine, W. V., *From a Logical Point of View*
29. Rorty, Amelie, *The Identities of Persons*
30. Searle, John, *Minds, Brains, and Science*
31. Strawson, P.F., *Individuals*
32. Swinburne, Richard, *Space and Time*.
33. Taylor, Richard, *Metaphysics*
34. van Inwagen, Peter, *Metaphysics*
35. White, Morton, *The Question of Free Will*

36. Williams, Bernard, *Problems of the Self*