

**PHIL3800**  
**Metaphysics 形上學**

**Course Outline**

**Term 2**

<b>Time :</b>	<b>F 09:30-11:15</b>	<b>Location :</b>	<b>LSK 302</b>
	<b>Tutorial time to be arranged</b>		

**Course overview**

This course aims to introduce and examine some of the important issues in metaphysics, including personal identity, free will, causation, time, realism and antirealism, and ontology. Prominent solutions to, and considerations of, those issues will be introduced and critically evaluated. This course adopts the problem-based approach, and examines issues of metaphysics from the analytical perspective.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

**Learning outcomes**

After taking this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the basic concepts in Metaphysics.
2. demonstrate familiarity with the major issues and prominent theses and positions in Metaphysics.
3. appreciate the main concerns and the nature of the major issues in Metaphysics.
4. acquire skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in Metaphysics.
5. enhance the ability of logical reasoning and argumentation and that of philosophical analysis.

**Topics**

1. Introduction: What is Metaphysics?
2. Personal Identity
3. Free Will and Determinism
4. Causation
5. Time
6. Realism and Anti-realism
7. Ontology

## Learning activities

Learning activities of this course include lectures, tutorials, reading essays, writing a term paper and final examination:

1. Lecture: 2 hours a week (mandatory).
2. Tutorial class: one two-hour session every two weeks (mandatory).
3. Term paper writing.
4. Preparation for the final examination.

In this course, students are required to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to read assigned essays before the lectures and study tutorial materials, usually consisting of assigned essays or book chapters, before the tutorial classes.

Students are also expected to devote sufficient time to the writing of the term paper throughout the whole course. Surveying and reading the relevant literature and analyzing the materials are essential to the production of a satisfactory term paper.

Students should be able to develop and enhance their analytical and argumentative skills through discussion in tutorials and classroom and writing the term paper.

## Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tutorial presentation and participation		25%
Term paper		35%
Final examination		40%

## Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

## Recommended learning resources

There will be a comprehensive set of lecture notes for the course. Recommended readings will be selected from a wide range of books, journals and anthologies. These are important references:

Beebee, H. and Dodd, J. eds. (2007) *Metaphysics—Selected Texts with Interactive Commentary*. Oxford: Blackwell 2007.

- Carroll, J. W. and Markosian, N. *An Introduction to Metaphysics*. Cambridge: CUP 2010.
- Conee, E. and Sider, T. *Riddles of Existence—A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*. Oxford: Clarendon 2005.
- Gale, R. ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Metaphysics*. Oxford: Blackwell 2002.
- Garrett, B. *What is This Thing Called Metaphysics?* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: Routledge 2011.
- Kim., J., Sosa, E. and Rosenkranz, G. S. eds. *A Companion to Metaphysics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Chicester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Loux, M. ed. *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: Routledge 2008.
- Loux, M. and Zimmerman, D. *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics*. Oxford: OUP 2005.
- Lowe, E. J. *A Survey of Metaphysics*. Oxford: OUP 2002.
- Perry, J. ed. *Personal Identity*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Berkerley: U.of California Press 2008.
- Sosa, E. and Tooley, M. eds. *Causation*. Oxford: OUP 1993.
- Taylor, R. *Metaphysics*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. NJ: Prentice Hall 1991.
- van Inwagen, P. *Metaphysics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Boulder: Westview 2008.
- van Inwagen P. and Zimmerman, D. *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Chicester: Wiley-Blackwell 2008.
- Watson, G. *Free Will*. Oxford: OUP 2003.

### Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	1. Introduction: What is Metaphysics?			
2	2. Personal Identity			
3	2. Personal Identity			
4	3. Free Will and Determination			
5	3. Free Will and Determination			
6	4. Causation			
7	4. Causation			
8	5. Time			
9	5. Time			
10	6. Realism and Antirealism			
11	6. Realism and			

	Antirealism			
12	7. Ontology			
13	7. Ontology			
14	7. Ontology			

### Details of course website

We use BLACKBORAD for this course. Relevant announcements and course documents (e.g., lecture notes) will be posted regularly on the website

### Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Cheung Kam-ching Leo
Office location:	Room 419, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7143
Email:	leokccheung@cuhk.edu.hk

<b>TA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

### Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic\\_honesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/)

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.