# PHIL3800 Metaphysics 形上學

# **Course Outline**

## Time:T 11:30am-1:15pm

Location: UCC C3

## Tutorial time to be arranged

#### **Course overview**

Metaphysics is a building block of the philosophy discipline—it has been labelled as the "First Philosophy". The subject matter of metaphysics is concerned with the fundamental entities and relations that are of great philosophical significance. This course aims to address some of the central issues in contemporary metaphysics as follows:

- I. Personal Identity
- 2. God
- 3. Free Will
- 4. Universals/Particulars
- 5. Mental/Physical

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

## Learning activities

- I. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week.
- 2. Tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks.
- 3. Reading: around 20-30 pages of required reading every week.
- 4. Assignments: paper and exam.

#### Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
Tutorial (10% for one presentation, 20% for four discussions)	30%
Paper (2,500-3,500 words in English or 5,000-7,000 words in Chinese; free to choose one of the five topics)	30%
Exam (April 18 <sup>th</sup> , in class)	40%

## Late submission policy

The term paper is due on March 31<sup>st</sup> (Friday). Paper submitted late will be downgraded a subgrade per day (for example, an 'A' paper that is I day late receives an 'A-', two days late 'B+', 3 days late 'B', and so on). I will not accept any papers later than April 7<sup>th</sup> (Friday).

# **Required resources**

Earl Conee & Theodore Sider, <u>Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics</u>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Other selected readings

# **Course schedule**

Week	Topics	Required reading	Tutorials
I	Introduction; Personal Identity (1)	"Ch. I: Personal Identity", Riddles of Existence	
2	Personal Identity (2)	Parfit, "The Unimportance of Personal Identity"	
3	God (I)	"Ch. 4: God", Riddles of Existence	
4	God (2)	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"	
5	Free Will (I)	"Ch. 6: Free Will and Determinism", Riddles of Existence	Williams, "The Self and the Future"
6	Free Will (2)	Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"	
7	Universals/Particulars (1)	"Ch. 8: Universals", Riddles of Existence	van Inwagen,"The Fine-Tuning Argument"
8	Universals/Particulars (2)	Ehring, "Why Believe in Tropes?"	
9	Mental/Physical (I)	Carroll & Markosian, "Ch. 6: Mental States", An Introduction to Metaphysics	Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person"
10	Mental/Physical (2)	Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes"	
11	Mental/Physical (3)	Putnam,"The Nature of Mental States"	Levine, "Materialism and Qualia: The Explanatory Gap"
12	Ching Ming Festival		
13	Review		Kim,"The Myth of Nonreductive Materialism"
14	Exam		

#### Details of course website

Reading materials, assignments, and lecture notes will be put in a Dropbox folder. The link to this folder is posted on Blackboard.

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

Teacher	
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## 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 <u>http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/</u>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed <u>declaration</u> 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.