

Course Code: PHIL 3800

Course Title: Metaphysics (形上學)

2019-20 Term 1

Instructor: Cheung, Kam Ching Leo (張錦青) (email: leokccheung@cuhk.edu.hk)

Tutor: TBA (email: TBA)

Time / Venue (Lecture): Tuesday 14:30-16:30 / Tsang Shiu Tim Bldg 104

BLACKBOARD LEARN will be used for this course.

Course Description:

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

Learning outcomes:

After taking this course, students should be able to:

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

Learning activities:

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

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.

Students are required to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to read assigned essays before the lectures and study tutorial materials 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:

Tutorial presentation and participation	(20%)
Term Paper*	(40%)
Examination	(40%)

Term paper:

Word limit of the term paper: 3000-5000

Deadline for term paper: 11:59 pm TBD

Attention:

In your *term paper*, if there are any ideas, opinions and/or materials which are taken from others, no matter whether you quote them word by word or not, you **MUST** provide the sources. Otherwise, you'd be considered as having committed Plagiarism. (Please also refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for 'Honesty in Academic Work'.)

Students are required to submit their term papers to the **VeriGuide** system before handing them in. Please visit the following website for the VeriGuide system: <http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp>

Outline Content:

1. What is metaphysics?
2. Identity over time (and material constitution)
3. Personal identity
4. Time
5. Causation
6. Free will
7. Realism and nominalism: universals
- 8.* Ontology

(*: *This chapter may not be taught*)

References:

**Beebe, Helen. (2013). *Freewill*. UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Beebe, Helen and Dodd, Julian. (eds). (2007) *Metaphysics—Selected Texts with Interactive Commentary*. Oxford: Blackwell.

**Carroll, J. and Markosian, N. (2010). *An Introduction to Metaphysics*. Cambridge: CUP.

Conee, E. and Sider, T. (2005). *Riddles of Existence—A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*. Oxford: Clarendon.

Gale, R. (ed.). (2002). *The Blackwell Guide to Metaphysics*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Garrett, B. (2011). *What is This Thing Called Metaphysics?* 2nd edition. London: Routledge.

Kim, J., Sosa, E. and Rosenkranz, G. S. (eds.). (1999). *A Companion to Metaphysics*. 2nd edition. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Koons, R. C. and Pickavance, T. H. (2015). *Metaphysics: The Fundamentals*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Loux, M. (ed.). (2008). *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge.

Loux, M. and Zimmerman, D. (2005). *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics*. Oxford: OUP.

**Lowe, E. J. (2002). *A Survey of Metaphysics*. Oxford: OUP.

**Perry, J. (ed.). (2008). *Personal Identity*, 2nd edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Poidevin, R. and MacBeath, M. (eds.). (1993). *The Philosophy of Time*. Oxford: OUP.

**Sosa, E. and Tooley, M. (eds.). (1993). *Causation*. Oxford: OUP.

**Taylor, R. (1992). *Metaphysics*, 4th edition. NJ: Prentice Hall.

van Inwagen, P. *Metaphysics*. (2008). 3rd edition. Boulder: Westview.

van Inwagen P. and Zimmerman, D. (2008). *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*. 2nd edition. Chicester: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Watson, G. (ed.). (2003). *Free Will*. Oxford: OUP.

**. These books are reserved at the University Library (with 2 hours loan period).

Teaching Schedule (Provisional):

	Date	Topic
Week 1	03-09-2019	1. Introduction: What is metaphysics? 2. Identity over time
Week 2	10-09-2019	2. Identity over time
Week 3	17-09-2019	3. Personal identity
Week 4	24-09-2019	3. Personal identity 4. Time
Week 5	01-10-2019	Holiday
Week 6	08-10-2019	4. Time
Week 7	15-10-2019	5. Causation
Week 8	22-10-2019	5. Causation
Week 9	09-10-2019	6. Free will
Week 10	05-11-2019	6. Free Will
Week 11	12-11-2019	7. Realism and nominalism
Week 12	19-11-2019	7. Realism and nominalism
Week 13	26-11-2019	8.* Ontology

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/academichonesty/> .

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.