

PHIL 14 Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics

Phil 14 is an introductory survey of some of the chief problems of metaphysics. We'll spend most of our time on what I consider the BIG problems of philosophical metaphysics: God, Infinity, Causation, Free Will, and more. Along with serving as an introduction to some philosophical puzzles, the course also hopes to develop and foster good argumentative skills and critical thinking on the part of the student. Combined with the fact that philosophical texts are frequently difficult for beginning students, this makes the course relatively challenging for an introductory one. But for those with a speculative turn of mind, it should be fun.

Who Professor Craig Callender

8077 HSS. Office hrs: Thurs 230-330 or by appt.
ccallender@ucsd.edu; 822-4911

TAs: Gil Hertshten: Tu:2-3, HSS 8037, ghert@ucsd.edu
Ben Sheredos: Th: 230-430, HSS 7039, sheredos@ucsd.edu

Where/When: CSB 002, TuTh 1230-150

Reading (1) Electronic articles via reserves.ucsd.edu and jstor.org
(2) *Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*, Conee & Sider

Note that most of the mandatory reading material is electronic. This method will save you a lot of money and also give you better readings. For it to work well, you must be vigilant about downloading and printing the material. You can access all material off-campus. Just go to <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/computing/remote-access/index.html> for directions. (This will be a great help for you in the future too.) Then if the reading (below) has an "(R)" next to it, access it at reserves.ucsd.edu, and if a "(J)" next to it, at jstor.org. Often R will take you to J anyway.

Lectures The lecture is primarily intended to set the scene and provide the stimulus for your own studies. I firmly believe that it's my duty to provide *extra content* over and above that found in the readings. Since every class will contain some material not found in the readings, it is nearly impossible to do well in this course if one's attendance is anything short of regular. Attendance will be taken.

Sections Here are four reasons to attend sections: (a) philosophy seeks good arguments, and the best way to see if you understand is to make some out loud with others, (b) the nitty-gritty of the readings often isn't covered in lecture (no time), but here it can be, (c) the section TA's are skilled experts in the material, and (d) you have to – attendance will be taken.

Grading	Midterm	30%
	Final	30%
	Essay	20%
	Homework	15%
	Attendance	05%

Make-ups There will be no make-up examinations except for serious illness or emergency, as documented by a suitable authority. The student who wishes to write a make-up exam must inform me (by phone or email) ahead of time. Please look now at the dates of the midterm and final and make sure that you put them in your schedule. Late papers and homework will be accepted, but will be penalized a half of a letter grade per day late.

Integrity In all your assignments, all sources must be appropriately acknowledged. All answers must be in your own wording. Closely paraphrasing or simply copying the work of others (such as authors of books or articles, or classmates, or Wikipedia) is plagiarism and will be severely penalized. If confused, just ask a TA or me whether something constitutes plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be immediately reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Also, students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. You should read the University's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship at www.senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm.

Respect Texting, emailing, etc., during lecture/section is not allowed. It's distracting to other students and the lecturer.

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

- Jan 5 *Introduction: Philosophical Arguments & God's Existence*
CS: 62-70
- Jan 7 *Deductive Arguments for God's Existence: Cosmological & Ontological*
Rowe, William, "The Cosmological Argument" (R)
CS: 78-84; 87-101
- Jan 12 *Inductive Arguments for God's Existence: Design & Anthropic*
Paley, W. "The Argument From Design", pp. 40-45. (R)
Hume, D. *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, parts 5 and 7.
(<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/hd.html>)
CS: 70-78
- Jan 14 *Zeno's Paradoxes and Infinity*
Huggett, "Zeno" 37-53 (R)
Gamow "Big Numbers" (R)
- Jan 19 *Zeno, Supertasks, and Infinity*
Black, M., 1950–1, 'Achilles and the Tortoise', *Analysis*, XI, 91–101 (J)

- Benacerraf, P., 1962, 'Tasks, Super-Tasks, and Modern Eleatics',
Journal of Philosophy, LIX, pp. 765–784 (J)
- Jan 21 *What Holds the Universe Together?*
- Feynman, "The Law of Gravitation, an Example of a Law of Nature" (R)
Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, 1748,
sections 5 and 7. <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/he.html>
- (Optional: Video of Feynman lecturing:
<http://research.microsoft.com/apps/tools/tuva/#data=3%7C%7C%7C>)
- Jan 26 *Causation: The Cement of the Universe?*
- Mackie, J. L., "Causal Regularities" (R)
Salmon, Wesley. "Causation" (R)
- Jan 28 *Causation: Continued*
- Continue above reading...
- Feb 2 *Laws of Nature: Humean versus Non-Humean Views of the World*
- Armstrong, "What is a Law of Nature?" (R)
Beebe, H. *The Non-Governing Conception of Laws of Nature* (R)
- Feb 4 *Midterm*
- Bring blue books!
- Feb 9 *Personal Identity*
- CS: 7-22
Locke: "Of Identity and Diversity," chapter 27, *An Essay Concerning
Human Understanding*, <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/locke2.pdf>
- Feb 11 *Personal Identity*
- Dennett, Daniel. "The Origins of Selves," (R)
Parfit, "Personal Identity", selections (J)
- (Optional: Velleman, David. "And So it Goes" Amherst Lectures)
- Feb 16 *Free Will*
- Ayer, A.J. "Freedom and Necessity" (R)
Chisholm, Roderick, "Human Freedom and the Self" (R)
CS: 112-133
- Feb 18 *Free Will*
- Strawson, Galen, "The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility" (R)
Paper Due!
- Feb 23 *Que Sera, Sera: Fatalism*
- CS: 22-43

- Feb 25 *Newton v Leibniz: Is Space a Substance?*
- Leibniz's Letters and Clarke's Replies, especially L's 4th letter, C's 4th reply, and L's 5th: www.earlymoderntexts.com/leibclar.html
Ray, Christopher. "Newton and the Reality of Space and Time" (R)
- (Optional: Newton, "Scholium": www.isaacnewton.ca/gen_scholium/)
- Mar 2 *The Shape of Space: Is it All Conventional?*
- Dainton, Barry. 2001. "Curved Space" (R)
- Mar 4 *Time: The Fourth Dimension?*
- CS: Time, 44-61
Taylor, "Spatial and Temporal Analogies and the Concept of Identity" (R)
- Mar 9 *Time: Does It Flow?*
- Putnam, "Time and Physical Geometry" (R)
Zimmerman, "The Privileged Present" (R)
- Mar 11 *Is Time Travel Possible?*
- Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel" (R)
- Mar 16 *Final Exam: Tu: 1130-229*

Resources

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is an excellent, peer-reviewed, free online resource. It has detailed entries on every topic we'll consider, plus additional references. Have you not written a philosophy paper before? Then check out (google):

Good and Bad in Philosophy Essays—by R. W. Hepburn
A Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays—by Colin Allen
A Brief Guide to Writing Philosophy Papers—by Richard Field
Essay Assignment—by Peter Suber
Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper—by James Pryor
Guidelines on Reading Philosophy—by James Pryor
Philosophical Writing Manual—Short Version—by Martin Young
Tips on Writing a Philosophy Paper—by Douglas Portmore
How to Write a Philosophy Paper That Doesn't Suck—Manuel Vargas