

METAPHYSICS
PHL XXX
FALL/SPRING 2XXX
JAN. 9nd – MAY 2nd¹

Professor: Dr. Kevin J. Kukla

- MEETING TIME: TBA
- OFFICE: TBA
- OFFICE HOURS: TBA
- OFFICE PHONE: TBA
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Final Exam: TBA

Textbooks:

- *Metaphysics: An Anthology (2000)* – Eds. Jaegwon Kim & Ernest Sosa. I will use the letter ‘M’ to refer to this text.
- *Contemporary Metaphysics: An Introduction (1998)* – Michael Jubien. I will use the letters ‘CM’ to refer to this text.
- *Philosophical Writing: An Introduction (1997)* – A.P. Martinich

Course Description

This course is an examination of some contemporary metaphysical problems. The topics discussed are: ontology; universal/particulars; modality; persistence; and personal identity.

¹This document was written in L^AT_EX.

Evaluation

- 3 Papers: 75%
- Short Writing Assignments: 15%
- Attendance & Participation: 10%

Attendance

You are allowed no more than 4 unexcused absences to be eligible for full participation/attendance consideration. Any undocumented absence beyond your fourth will result in 0% for your attendance/participation grade. Additionally, tardiness and sleeping in class is equivalent to an absence.

Participation

Students are expected to attend class prepared to discuss critically the assigned readings. If ever the class fails to prepare adequately for class, I reserve the right to administer a quiz for that day.

Grading Scale

- **A+** = 97 - 100%
- **A** = 93 - 96%
- **A-** = 90 - 92%
- **B+** = 87 - 89%
- **B** = 83 - 86%
- **B-** = 80 - 82%
- **C+** = 77 - 79%
- **C** = 73 - 76%
- **C-** = 70 - 72%
- **D+** = 67 - 69%
- **D** = 63 - 66%
- **D-** = 60 - 62%
- **F** = < 60%

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must be turned off before class begins. If a student's electronic device sounds during class, the student will be counted absent for that day.

Disability Access

Students with disabilities should register with the Office of Disability Services, 205/348.4285. They should then provide the instructor with appropriate documentation and written requests regarding special accommodations. Students who wish to discuss such accommodations are invited to schedule appointments during the instructor's office hours.

Code of Misconduct

The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student.

TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

WEEK	READING(S)	TOPIC
1	<p>CM: <i>Chapter 1</i></p> <p>Propositional Logic</p>	<p>What is Metaphysics? Propositional Logic</p>
2/3	<p>M: <i>On What There is</i>, W.V.O. Quine, p. 4 – 12</p> <p><i>Empiricism, Semantics, & Ontology</i>, Rudolph Carnap, pp. 13 – 22</p> <p><i>Existence & Description</i>, Bertrand Russell, pp. 23 – 35</p>	<p>Ontology</p>
4/5/6	<p>CM: pp. 130 – 143</p> <p>HAN: Propositional Modal Logic</p> <p>M: <i>Modalities: Basic Concepts and Distinctions</i>, Alvin Plantinga, pp. 135 – 148</p> <p>CM: pp. 144 – 153</p> <p>M: <i>Identity Through Possible Worlds</i>, Roderick Chisholm, pp. 149 – 153</p> <p><i>Counterparts & Double Lives</i>, David Lewis, pp. 154 – 171</p>	<p>Modalities & Possible Worlds PAPER 1 DUE AT THE END OF THE 6th WEEK</p>
7/8/9	<p>CM: pp. 36 – 45</p> <p>M: <i>New Work for a Theory of Universals</i>, David Lewis, pp. 209 – 232</p> <p>CM: pp. 46 – 62</p> <p>M: <i>On Properties</i>, Hilary Putnam, pp. 243 – 252</p>	<p>Universals, Properties, Kinds</p>

TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE (Continued)

WEEK	READING(S)	TOPIC
<p>10/11(SPRING BREAK)/12/13</p>	<p>CM: pp. 154 – 163</p> <p>M: <i>Identity Through Time</i>, Roderick Chisholm, pp. 283 – 283</p> <p>CM: pp. 164 – 174</p> <p>M: <i>Identity, Ostension, & Hypostasis</i>, W.V.O. Quine, pp. 284 – 290</p> <p><i>Temporal Parts of Four-Dimensional Objects</i>, Mark Heller, pp. 312 – 326</p>	<p>Things & Their Persistence</p> <p>PAPER 2 DUE AT THE END OF THE 10th WEEK</p>
<p>14/15/16</p>	<p>M: <i>The Persistence of Persons</i>, Roderick Chisholm, pp. 331 – 337</p> <p><i>Persons & Their Pasts</i>, Sydney Shoemaker, pp. 339 – 354</p> <p><i>The Self & the Future</i>, Bernard Williams, pp. 355 – 364</p> <p><i>Personal Identity</i>, Derek Parfit, pp. 355 – 374</p>	<p>The Persistence of Persons</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>M: <i>Realism, Antirealism, Irrealism, Quasi-realism</i>, Crispin Wright, pp. 649 – 665</p>	<p>Realism/Anti-Realism</p> <p>PAPER 3 IS DUE DURING FINALS WEEK</p>