Metaphysics: 4513 & 5513

Heather Demarest

Room: Dale Hall Tower 607
Day/Time: Thursdays, 3:00-6:00
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30

Overview
In this course we will consider some of the big questions in metaphysics: What exists? What are properties? What is fundamental? What is space? What is time? How do objects and people persist through time? Do we have free will? Does God exist?

Official Policies
Plagiarism: Work that is not properly cited will receive a zero. If you have any questions about plagiarism, ask! [http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)

I will do my best to accommodate all students. If you have a particular concern, first contact the Disability Resource Center, then contact me by email or visit during office hours. [https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html](https://www.ou.edu/content/drc/home/students/accommodations.html)

Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This is a place to learn and share ideas, and that requires an open, supportive atmosphere for everyone.

All papers must be handed in via Desire2Learn. If you submit your papers one week early, I will give you feedback, along with the grade that paper would receive as a final version. If you are unhappy with that grade, you may incorporate my feedback and hand it in again by the due date. No late work will be accepted.

General principle: each hour of class requires 2-3 hours of work outside of class. If you spend 6-9 hours reading and writing for this class each week, you will do well.

There are no required texts. All readings will be made available online.

Grading for Undergraduates
10 Article Summaries (1 page)  5 pts each  50%
1 Short Paper (5-7 pages) 20 pts 20%
1 Long Paper (8-10 pages) 30 pts 30%

Grading for Graduates
10 Article Summaries (1 page) 5 pts each 50%
1 Short Paper (5-10 pages) 20 pts 20%
1 Long Paper (10-15 pages) 30 pts 30%
Metaphysics: 4513 & 5513

Heather Demarest

Properties (8/29)

Properties (9/5)

Natural Kinds (9/12)

Grounding (9/19)
9. Amie Thomasson: “Answerable and Unanswerable Questions” (optional) [27]

Space (9/26)
12. Newton & Leibniz/Clarke Correspondence (selection)

Time (10/3)
13. Hans Reichenbach: The Direction of Time (selection) [23]

DRB Lecture with Claudia Card (10/10)—*SHORT PAPERS DUE MONDAY (10/14)*

Time and Physics (10/17)
17. Ted Sider: Four-Dimensionalism (selection) [26]
Metaphysics: 4513 & 5513

Heather Demarest

Causation (10/24)
21. James Woodward: Making things Happen (selection) [33]

Persistence (10/31)
23. Ted Sider: Four-Dimensionalism (selection) [26]
24. Judith Jarvis Thomson: “Parthood and Identity Across Time” (optional) [28]

Personal Identity (11/7)
26. John Locke: Essay Concerning Human Understanding, II.27.9-12 (optional) [19]
27. David Hume: Treatise of Human Nature, I.VI (optional) [19]

Personal Identity (11/14)

Free Will (11/21) *LONG PAPERS DUE MONDAY (12/2)*
32. Peter van Inwagen: “The Mystery of Metaphysical Freedom” [29]
35. Hilde Lindemann Nelson: Damaged Identities, Narrative Repair (selection) [16]

Existence of God (12/5)
36. St Anselm: Proslogion (selection)
37. William Paley: Natural Theology (selection)
38. David Hume: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (selection)
39. Roger White: “Fine Tuning and Multiple Universes” (optional) [31]
References


