

PHILOSOPHY 330
METAPHYSICS I

WINTER 2008

Instructor: Ryan Wasserman
Office: Bond 310, ext. 3860
Hours: MWF 11-11:50

Section: 11598
Location: Humanities 103
Times: MWF 3-3:50

Email: ryan.wasserman@wwu.edu

Website: <http://myweb.facstaff.wwu.edu/wasserr/330/home.html>

Overview

This is a survey course in analytic metaphysics. In the first half of the course we will cover properties, causation, and laws of nature. In the second half of the course we will cover various issues relating to the metaphysics of material objects.

Texts

There is no text book. All readings will be posted on the website or distributed in class.

Requirements

You are expected to arrive on time for each class, having done the assigned reading in advance. In addition, you are required to complete a midterm and a final paper assignment.

Extensions

Requests to reschedule exams will be evaluated on an individual basis. If you know you're going to miss an exam, you must talk to me beforehand or get a zero. If you miss an exam because of a sudden illness or other emergency, you must provide some sort of proof (e.g., doctor's note) or get a zero.

Academic Dishonesty

If you are caught cheating, you get an F for the course and I notify the vice president for academic affairs and the registrar. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty: see appendix D of the university catalog.

Schedule*

1/09 NO CLASS

1/11 NO CLASS

1/14 Introduction ☞ "Metaphysics"

1/16 Properties ☞ "Properties," section 1 & "On What There Is" (suggested)

1/18 Properties ☞ "Properties," sections 2-6

1/21 NO CLASS

1/23 Modality ☞ "Modal Propositional Logic"

1/25 Modality ☞ "Counterfactuals"

1/28 Causation ☞ "Causation," sections 1-3

1/30 Causation ☞ "Causation," section 4

2/01 Causation ☞ "Causation," sections 5-6

2/04 Laws ☞ "Laws of Nature," sections 1-2

2/06 Laws ☞ "Laws of Nature," sections 3-4

2/08 Laws

2/11 Laws ☞ "Laws of Nature," section 5

2/13 REVIEW

2/15 **MIDTERM**

2/18 NO CLASS

2/20 Objects ☞ Markosian, "Material Objects" (suggested)

2/22 Objects ☞ Wiggins, "On Being in the Same Place at the Same Time"

2/25 Objects

2/27 Objects ☞ "An Objection to the Standard Account"

2/29 Objects ☞ "Temporal Parts" (focus on sections 1-3)

3/03 Objects ☞ "The Doctrine of Temporal Parts and the 'No Change' Objection"

3/05 Objects ☞ "Contingent Identity" (suggested)

3/07 Objects ☞ "Preserving the Principle of One Object to a Place"

3/10 Objects

3/12 Objects ☞ "Identity through Time"

3/14 Objects

3/21 **FINAL PAPER DUE** (by noon)

* All readings required unless marked otherwise.