

University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 321(01) – Metaphysics
Winter 2009

Instructor: Ryan Tanner
Office: SS1227
Office Hours: TH 11:30-1:00 (or by appointment)
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Lectures: TR 9:30-10:45, ST 126

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to some of the central issues in metaphysics. A provisional list of topics includes existence (what there is and why there is anything at all), free will, the nature of space and time, and the relationship between body and mind.

Textbook

Peter van Inwagen and Dean Zimmerman, eds., *Metaphysics: The Big Questions* (Blackwell 2008).

Evaluation

Grading will be based on three 5-7 page essays. The first essay will be worth 20% of the final grade, and the remaining two will each be worth 40% of the final grade. A list of suggested topics for each essay will be provided in advance. If you wish to write on a topic not on the list you must consult me first. Essays may be submitted to me in class or deposited in the course drop box at the Philosophy department. **Late assignments will not be accepted without medical (or other) documentation.** There is no midterm or final exam for this class.

Due dates:

Essay 1	Fri. Feb. 13
Essay 2	Fri. Mar. 20
Essay 3	Fri. Apr. 17

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	60-63 C-	70-74 B-	86-91 A-
50-54 D	64-66 C	75-79 B	92-96 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	97-100 A+

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.