



TTPH 523  
*METAPHYSICS I*

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**Course Objectives:**

1. To discuss the nature and importance of metaphysics and some differences among philosophers regarding methodology in metaphysics, including the relationship between science and metaphysics and the rejection of first philosophy.
2. To introduce the student to the role that philosophy of language has played in modern metaphysical discussions.
3. To examine the nature of being or existence.
4. To define and explore different ways of taking basic categories of ontology.
5. To investigate issues and options regarding substance, property, and relation.
6. To look at some specific issues in metaphysics, e.g., dualism, personal identity.
7. To introduce the student to issues in essentialism and possible worlds.

**Course Schedule:** The course will meet Monday according to the following schedule:

UNIT	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1-2 (8/30-9/6)	What is Metaphysics?	RR 1; #3: Introduction; #6: ch. 8; #7: ch. 1;
Weeks 3-5 (9/13-9/27)	Existence, Identity	RR 2; #6: ch. 9; Vallicella;
Weeks 6-8 (10/4-10/18)	Properties	#5: ch. 1,2,6
Week 9 (10/25)	Relations	RR 3; #3: ch. 3
Week 10 (11/1)	MIDTERM EXAM	
Weeks 11 (11/8)	Personal Identity/ Presentism, Endurantism	#6: ch. 14
Week 12 (11/15)	Possible Worlds	RR 4; #7 ch. 7
Week 13 (11/22)	Substance and Material Composition	RR 5; Broad; Ducasse
Week 14 (11/29)	Agency and Free Will	
Weeks 15 (12/6)	Essentialism, Possible Worlds	#3: ch. 5; #7: ch. 5-6
Week 16 (12/13)	FINAL EXAM	

**Textbooks:**

- #1: Richard Connell, [\*Substance and Modern Science\*](#) (University of Notre Dame, 1988).
- #2: Saul Kripke, [\*Naming and Necessity\*](#) (Harvard, 1980).
- #3: Michael J. Loux, [\*Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction\*](#) (Routledge, 1998).
- #4: Geoffrey Madell, [\*The Identity of the Self\*](#) (Edinburgh, 1981).
- #5: J. P. Moreland, [\*Universals\*](#) (Acumen/McGill-Queens University Press, 2001).
- #6: J. P. Moreland, William Lane Craig, [\*Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview\*](#) (InterVarsity Press, 2003).
- #7: E.J. Lowe, [\*A Survey of Metaphysics\*](#) (Oxford, 2002).

**Reserved Reading (RR):**

- RR 1: Bruce Aune, *Metaphysics: The Elements* (Minnesota: 1985), pp. 3-11.
- RR 2: Roderick Chisholm, *On Metaphysics* (Minnesota: 1989), pp. 49-61.
- RR 3: Reinhardt Grossmann, *The Existence of the World* (Routledge, 1992), pp. 51-57.
- RR 4: Joseph Melia, "Possible Worlds," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* 7: 570-73.
- RR 5: Theodore Sider, "Constitution," in *Riddles of Existence*, ed. by Earl Conee, Theodore Sider (Oxford, 2005), pp. 134-53.

**Class Handouts:**

- C. D. Broad, "The 'Nature' of a Continuant," reprinted in *Readings in Philosophical Analysis*, ed. by Herbert Feigl, Wilfrid Sellars (N. Y.: Apleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1982), pp. 472-481.
- C. J. Ducasse, "Causality and Substance," in *Nature, Mind and Death* (La Salle, Illinois: Open Court, 1951), pp. 161-173.
- William Vallicella, *A Paradigm Theory of Existence* (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002), pp. xi, 1-8, 30-34.

**Assignments:**

1. Required reading is to be read according to the schedule above (20%) (due at beginning of class on December 6).
2. An objective midterm (30%) and an essay final exam (30%). The midterm will consist 50 true/false questions and will cover the material in weeks 1-9. The final exam will be administered as follows: You will be given a set of four study questions one of which will be the exam question. You are to read textbooks 2 and 4 in their entirety and have them finished by the exam. The four exam questions will be over these books. The exam will taken in class on Monday December 13.

3. Read Connell chapters 1-13, 17-21 (20%). Write a 6 page paper that answers 2 questions: 1) On a standard mechanistic view of chemical change as accidental change involving ordered aggregates, the new compound is sometimes taken to have emergent properties not present in the parts of the compound or in the chemical reactants that formed the compound. How would someone who accepts chemical change as substantial change analyze the new properties of the new compound without taking them as emergent properties. What is the main difference between the two views relevant to the existence of emergent properties? 2) Assuming that organisms are substances, provide a metaphysical analysis of the nature of the parts and physical activities in organisms. Also, describe the internal structure of an organism and relate it to quantity on the one hand and genes on the other hand. Due November 29.