

Philosophy 4400: Metaphysics  
Charlie Huenemann  
Spring 2010  
Office hours: T/Th 2-3 and by app.'t

**Overview:** In this class we'll explore possible answers to metaphysical questions, like What are things? What is real? Does God exist? What is the nature of consciousness? And: Do we have free will?

**Assignments:** Four papers will be required. Each should be 3 or 4 pages, double-spaced. The first one (Paper "0"), due early on, is required, but the grade will not be recorded. (It is meant to give you practice in writing a paper for me, and to let you know how I grade.) Saying it is "required" means you won't get a grade for the course without turning it in. Late papers will be accepted or refused at my whim, but never will receive a grade higher than a B.

There will be a final exam, focusing on the last month of the class. It will consist of three essay questions; you should answer two of them. Notes may be used.

Each of the three graded papers, the last exam, and class participation all count equally toward the final grade. Participation is measured by how often you contribute good things to our discussions. If you are uncomfortable doing so, please see me.

**On grading:** As I read a paper, I ask myself these questions:

\* Is it *adequate*?

→If Yes, then is it *good*?

→If Yes, then is it *excellent*?

→If Yes, then A or A-

→If No, then B-, B, or B+

→If No, then C-, C, or C+

→If No, then F, D, or D+

*Adequate* papers show sufficient familiarity with the material, and fair mechanics. *Good* papers are more accurate, show more attention to detailed subject matter, and have very good mechanics. *Excellent* papers are nearly flawless and also reveal a deeper, intellectual, honest engagement with the materials.

**Books (required):** Peter van Inwagen, *Metaphysics* (Westview); Barbara Montero, *On the Philosophy of Mind* (Wadsworth)

PHILOSOPHY 4400  
(Metaphysics)

1/12	Introduction: What is metaphysics?	None
1/14	Introduction: What is metaphysics?	None
1/19	What is real? <b>Paper 0 due</b>	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 1
1/21	What are individuals?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 2
1/26	Do external objects exist?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 3
1/28	Do external objects exist?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 3
2/2	Are there objective truths?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 4
2/4	Are there objective truths?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 4
2/9	Why is there anything? <b>Paper 1 due</b>	<i>Metaphysics</i> , intro. to part 2
2/11	(no class)	
2/18	Does God exist necessarily?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 5
2/23	Is God the cause of the world?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 6
2/25	(no class)	
3/2	What is rationality?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 7
3/4	Is there design in the world? <b>Paper 2 due</b>	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 8
3/9	What is the nature of the human mind?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 9
3/11	Thinking about mentality	Phil of Mind, chs. 12, 14, 15, 17
3/23	Could materialism be true?	Phil of Mind, chs. 10, 11, 16
3/25	Problems for materialism	Phil of Mind, chs. 7, 8
3/30	Could dualism be true?	Phil of Mind, chs. 5, 6, 20
4/1	Further discussion	none
4/6	Further discussion <b>Paper 3 due</b>	none
4/8	What is a person?	Phil of Mind, ch. 18
4/13	What is a person?	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 10
4/15	Discussion	
4/20	Are we metaphysically free?	Phil of Mind, ch. 19
4/22	Freedom of the will	<i>Metaphysics</i> , ch. 11
4/27	Hard vs. soft determinism	none
4/29	Is metaphysics possible?	
5/6	<b>Exam, 9:30</b>	