

Metaphysics
Philosophy 4400
Fall 2015

Instructor: Gordon Steinhoff
Room: Family Life 307
Time: 1:30 - 2:45 Tues, Thurs.

Objectives: In this course we will study the following topics in metaphysics: mind and body, determinism and freedom, fatalism, realism and antirealism, universals, truth, and our knowledge of the external world. We will study the writings of some well-known philosophers, including Richard Taylor, Bertrand Russell, Hilary Putnam, and Paul Feyerabend. We will practice writing medium-length philosophical essays.

Course Requirements: I will ask each of you to write four essays of 5 to 6 pages each. The essay assignments will cover topics from our readings and from class discussion. These essays will be graded strictly. Plan on putting a fair amount of effort into writing each one. Good class notes and reading notes will be essential. In addition, there will be a one-page "reaction paper" assigned once or twice each week on the readings. These reaction papers will be graded on a 10-point scale and will count for one-fifth of your final grade. There will be no in-class exams. All essays and reaction papers are due on the dates assigned. The final essay will be due Dec. 15.

Assigned readings will include the books listed below and will also include photocopied articles which are available on electronic reserve for this course.

Books: Richard Taylor, *Metaphysics*, fourth edition
Keith Campbell, *Body and Mind*
Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy*

Tentative Schedule:

Weeks 1 through 4	Mind and Body (Campbell's and Taylor's books, and articles by Fodor, Nagel, and Churchland)
Weeks 5 through 8	Determinism and Freedom (Taylor's book and articles by Schlick and C.A. Campbell)
Weeks 9 through 12	Realism and Truth (Russell's book and an article by Devitt)
Weeks 13 through 15	Antirealism and other Responses to Realism (articles by Duhem, Putnam, Goodman, and Feyerabend)

My office: Old Main 202D
Office hours: Afternoons 3:00 to 5:30, or by appointment
Phone: 797-3688

Keys to doing well in this course: Attend every class. Take good notes. Do the assigned reading when it is assigned. Turn in every assigned response paper. Since these are graded on a 10-point scale, low scores and zeros make a big difference in this component of your final grade. Put a fair amount of time into writing each essay. As you write an essay, address each topic in the essay assignment and answer each question as clearly as you can. The instructor will grade primarily on completeness and clarity.

For All Who Take This Course: Please come to class on time!! The class begins at 1:30. Also, please be courteous to the instructor and other students. Do not sit and chat with your neighbor during class while the instructor is teaching. Such behavior is distracting to the instructor, your neighbor, and yourself. Please socialize outside of class.

Plagiarism: (from the university catalogue) representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own, in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. In this course, do not plagiarize. Any plagiarism will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Except for some quotes, all essays and shorter papers must be in your own words. Do not paraphrase unless you clearly indicate that you are paraphrasing and provide the source.