

Metaphysics  
Philosophy 4400  
Fall 2017

Instructor: Gordon Steinhoff  
Room: Geology 308  
Time: 3:00 - 4:15 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, Nelson Goodman, 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. 14.

**Assigned readings** will include the books listed below and will also include photocopied articles which are available on electronic reserve for this course (our canvas site).

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 an article by Churchland)
Weeks 5 through 8	Determinism and Freedom (Taylor's book and articles by Schlick, Stace, and C.A. Campbell)
Weeks 9 through 12	Realism and Truth (Russell's book and an article by Devitt)
Weeks 13 through 15	Responses to Realism (articles by Luce, Putnam, Goodman, and Feyerabend)

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