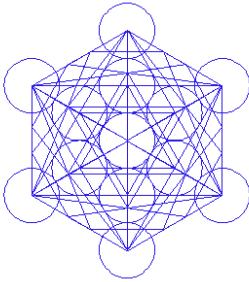


PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy



Fall 2009, TR: 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
505 Journalism Building

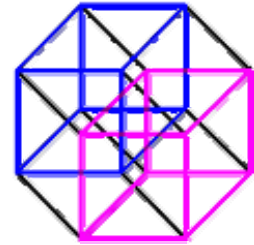
Instructor: Yuri Balashov

Office: 124 Peabody Hall

Email: yuri@uga.edu

Phone: 583-0529

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday: 11:00 am –
12:00 pm and by appointment



Course Website: <http://yuri.myweb.uga.edu/phil1000.html>

The course offers a problem-oriented introduction to philosophy. The main goal is to familiarize you with critical philosophical thinking. There are many different ways to introduce people to philosophy. We shall focus on a specific – exciting, but rather abstract – area of contemporary analytic philosophy called *metaphysics*. Metaphysics has traditionally been regarded as a philosophical inquiry into what there is. What else is there to say about it? The subject is too general to define precisely. The best way to understand what metaphysics *is* is to *do* some metaphysics!

We shall do it by reading and discussing an excellent text and some of the best examples of recent work in the area. (For our purposes, ‘recent’ means ‘twentieth-century’.) Some of the topics to be covered include some of the following: *time, identity, free will and determinism, material composition, and universals*.

In addition to introducing you to one of the core areas of contemporary philosophy, the course aims to develop your critical and analytic skills. It requires concentration and willingness to struggle with difficult, mind-boggling material.

FORMAT:

- A mix of lecture and discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the material assigned for a given class meeting.

TEXTS:

- Earl Conee & Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007 (paperback, ISBN-10: 0199215189, ISBN-13: 978-0199215188)
- Additional journal papers, to be downloaded individually from the internet (the Galileo password is required)
- Notes and handouts will be available on the course WWW site: yuri.myweb.uga.edu/phil1000.html

REQUIREMENTS:

- Two non-cumulative in-class tests (50%)
- Two short papers (50%) [late submission will result in grade reduction]
- Class participation is strongly encouraged and will be taken into account in borderline cases.

ATTENDANCE, OFFICE HOURS, AND OUTSIDE HELP:

There is no formal attendance requirement. But you will *not* succeed in this class unless you are *with it* at any moment. I will have regular office hours (Tue, Thurs: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm) and will also be available at other time (by appointment). Please understand that my office hours are for you to use. I am *always* willing to talk to you, explain things in greater detail than is possible in class and help you in any other way. At the same time, do not expect any help from me outside class if you do not attend class.

*****PRELIMINARY*** SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Aug 18, T: Introduction and class mechanics.
Preliminaries: arguments and their structure, use and mention, relations and their properties. Readings: none.
- Aug 20, R: Introduction to the subject matter of metaphysics.
Readings: “Introduction,” in Earl Conee & Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence: A Guided Tour of Metaphysics* [hereafter *Riddles*], pp. 1–6.
- Aug 25, T: Identity and personal identity.
Readings: Theodore Sider, “Personal Identity,” *Riddles*, pp. 7–21.
- Aug 27, R: Identity and personal identity.
Readings: Theodore Sider, “Personal Identity,” *Riddles*, pp. 7–21.
- Sept 1, T: Personal identity.
Readings: TBA.
- Sept 3, R: Personal identity.
Readings: TBA.
- [...]
[...]
[...]

Dec 3, R: Last day of class. Review and catch-up. Class evaluations.

Dec 15, 8:00 – 11:00 am: Final Exam (= Second in-Class Exam).

Please note:

- **The date and time of the final exam are set by the Registrar’s Office.**
- **I cannot offer the final exam to anyone on any other date or at any other time.**
- **Please plan accordingly.**