

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline, Winter 2016**

Philosophy 3601G: Metaphysics

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Lucien Lamoureux, Ph.D.
Office: SSC 4434
Office Hours: Thursday: 5:00 -7:00 pm
(I am also available to meet students
immediately after class or by
appointment.)
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CLASS INFORMATION

Monday: 2:30-4:30 pm
Wednesday: 3:30-4:30 pm
TC-201

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Broadly speaking, metaphysics is the study of what there is. In this course we will explore a number of traditional metaphysical problems, including the nature of time, causation, laws of nature, personal identity, the mind-body relation and free will. We will also discuss the nature, methodology and possibility of metaphysics.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will help students to:

1. Describe traditional problems in metaphysics that impact our understanding of the world and our relation to it.
2. Evaluate conflicting philosophical arguments elicited in response to these problems.
3. Formulate thoughtful solutions to these problems.
4. Persuade others of a well-reasoned stance or action.
5. Demonstrate effective writing and skillful critical and reflective thinking.

Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honour course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students.

COURSE MATERIALS

An Introduction to Metaphysics, Carroll, John W. and Markosian, Ned, Cambridge University Press, 2010. (paperback)

Online readings accessible electronically.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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|------------------------|----------|
| 1) Two 6-8 page papers | 35% each |
| OR | |
| One 12-15 page paper | 70% |
| 2) Final Exam | 30% |

Paper Submission Guidelines

In addition to submitting hardcopies on the due date, papers must also be submitted electronically to OWL.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, a student is unable to complete a course component worth **10 per cent or greater** of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with an Academic Advisor per Western's Policies and Regulations. In the case of mental illness consult Western's Policy on Accommodation for Mental Illness found at: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

In all other cases, please approach the instructor in a timely fashion.

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Additional Support Services are available at Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>) and Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>).