

Undergraduate Metaphysics Course

course number here

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<u>Assignments</u>		<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Exam #1:	30%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Exam #2:	30%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exam #3:	30%													
Participation:	10%													

Required Text

Michael J. Loux, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge, 2002).

Recommended Text

Jaegwon Kim and Ernest Sosa, eds., *A Companion to Metaphysics* (Malden, Mass: Blackwell, 1995).

Course Description

This course will focus on several central issues in contemporary philosophical debates in metaphysics. Some of these issues will include the nature of substances and properties, how to understand the modalities of necessity and possibility, how things persist across time, and the realism/anti-realism debate.

Exams

This course will have three take-home exams. These exams will consist in essay questions that intend to test how well students have understood the content of the class readings and lectures. More information concerning the exact nature of the exams will be given in class. Each exam is worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

Attendance & Participation

Given the difficult nature of many of the readings and topics covered in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. Students will receive 10% of their overall grade based on their attendance and participation in the course.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet three basic requirements: (1) they must take all the exams; (2) they must attend three-fourths of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions are subject to fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Metaphysics

Loux, Introduction (pp. 1-19)

Week 2: Universals/Realism

Loux, pp. 20-35

Week 3: Universals/Realism

Loux, pp. 35-50

Week 4: Nominalism

Loux, pp. 54-73

Week 5: Nominalism

Loux, pp. 73-93

Exam #1

Week 6: Substances, Bundles, Substrata

Loux, pp. 96-116

Week 7: Substances, Bundles, Substrata

Loux, pp. 116-135

Week 8: Propositions and their Neighbors

Loux, pp. 139-164

Week 9: Propositions and their Neighbors

Loux, pp. 164-173

Week 10: Modality

Loux, pp. 176-213

Exam #2

Week 11: Persistence through Time

Loux, pp. 215-226

Week 12: Persistence through Time

Loux, pp. 226-247

Week 13: Anti-Realism

Loux, pp. 250-266

Week 14: Anti-Realism

Loux, pp. 266-279

Week 15: Anti-Realism

Loux, pp. 279-290

Exam #3