

Philosophy 3700: Introduction to Metaphysics
Autumn 2015

Instructor: Ben Caplan
 Time: T Th 3:55 PM – 5:15 PM
 Location: McPherson Lab 1045
 Office: 372 University Hall
 Office hours: T Th 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM, or by appointment
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Course description

We will talk about holes, statues, motorcycles, cakes, candles, and stuff. We will also talk about race, gender, and disability. Along the way we might talk about topics like existence, location, and parthood; objects, properties, and relations; and persistence, identity, and time.

Readings

Readings are available on Carmen.

Requirements

First assignment	30%
Second assignment	30%
Third assignment	40%

The third assignment will be a short paper. (A short paper is not longer than 5 pages.) One or more of the first two assignments will be a very short paper. (A very short paper is not longer than 2-3 pages.) Any of the first two assignments that is not a very short paper will be a problem set.

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. You are expected to know what counts as academic misconduct. You are also expected not to commit it. Among other things, your work must be your own, and you must cite all of your sources. In accordance with Faculty Rule 3335-5-487, all suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the university's Committee on Academic Misconduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Disability services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform me as soon as possible of their needs. Further information can be found at www.ods.ohio-state.edu.

Schedule

A detailed and updated schedule will be posted on Carmen.

There is no class on Thursday, 15 October 2015 (Autumn Break) and on Thursday, 25 November 2015 (Thanksgiving Day¹).

Tentative outline

Holes

David Lewis and Stephanie Lewis, "Holes," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 48.2 (Aug. 1970): 206-212.

Statues (multi-thingism and plenitudinarianism)

Judith Jarvis Thomson, "The Statue and the Clay," *Noûs* 32.2 (June 1998): 149-173.

Karen Bennett, "Spatiotemporal Coincidence and the Grounding Problem," 118.3 *Philosophical Studies* (April 2004): 339-371.

Stuff

Shieva Kleinschmidt, "Some Things about Stuff," *Philosophical Studies* 135.3 (Sept. 2007): 407-423.

Motorcycles and cakes (hylomorphism)

Kathrin Koslicki, *The Structure of Objects* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 3-8, 176-186, 261-264.

Karen Bennett, "Koslicki on Formal Proper Parts," *Analysis* 71.2 (April 2011): 286-290.

Candles (persistence)

Sally Haslanger, "Persistence through Time," in *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics*, ed. Michael J. Loux and Dean W. Zimmerman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 315-354.

¹ Not applicable in Canada.

Gender and race

Sally Haslanger, "A Social Constructionist Analysis of Race," in *Revisiting Race in a Genomic Age*, ed. Barbara A. Koenig, Sandra Soo-Jin Lee, and Sarah S. Richardson, Rutgers Series in Medical Anthropology (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2008), 56-69.

Jennifer Saul, "Gender and Race," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Supplementary Volumes* 80 (2006): 119-143.

Disability

Elizabeth Barnes, *The Minority Body* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming), Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1.