

Philosophy 3700: Introduction to Metaphysics
Spring 2014

Instructor: Ben Caplan
 Time: W F 12:45 PM – 2:05 PM
 Location: 0173 Mendenhall Lab
 Office: 372 University Hall
 Office hours: W F 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM, or by appointment
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Course description

The course will be divided into three clusters of topics: (i) holes and regions of space (or spacetime); (ii) colors, sounds, and echoes; and (iii) species, race, and gender. Along the way we'll talk about objects, properties, relations, events, quantification, identity, and time.

Course requirements

Entrance and exit exams	0%
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.

You must complete the entrance and exit exams to pass the course. They are worth 0% of your final grade.

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. For further details, see the Code of Student Conduct at studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform me as soon as possible of

their needs. For further information, see the website of the Office of Disability Services at www.ods.ohio-state.edu.

Schedule

Due to a conflict with the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, there will be no class during the last week of the semester (16 and 18 April 2014). A detailed and updated schedule will be posted online.

Tentative outline

1. Holes and regions

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

Andrew Wake, Joshua Spencer, and Gregory Fowler, "Holes as Regions of Spacetime," *Monist* 90.3 (July 2007): 372-378.

Max Black, "The Identity of Indiscernibles," *Mind* 61.242 (April 1952): 153-164.

Isaac Newton, *Principia*, excerpt reprinted in Nick Huggett, ed., *Space from Zeno to Einstein: Classic Readings with a Contemporary Commentary*, Bradford (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999), 116-125.

Gottfried Leibniz and Samuel Clarke, excerpt from their correspondence reprinted in *Space from Zeno to Einstein*, 143-158.

2. Colors, sounds, and echoes

Bertrand Russell, "The World of Universals," from *The Problems of Philosophy*, 1912 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1959), 91-100.

Willard V. Quine, "On What There Is," *Review of Metaphysics* 2.5 (Sept. 1948): 21-38.

Casey O'Callaghan, "Sounds and Events," in *Sounds and Perception: New Philosophical Essays*, ed. Mathew Nudds and Casey O'Callaghan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 26-49.

Casey O'Callaghan, "Echoes," *Monist* 90.3 (Jul. 2007): 403-414.

Gregory Fowler, "Against the Primary Sound Account of Echoes," *Analysis* 73.3 (July 2013): 466-473.

3. Species, race, and gender

David L. Hull, "A Matter of Individuality," *Philosophy of Science* 45.3 (Sept. 1978): 335-360.

Paul E. Griffiths, "Squaring the Circle: Natural Kinds with Historical Essences," in *Species: New Interdisciplinary Essays*, ed. Robert A. Wilson, Bradford (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999), 209-228.

Joshua Glasgow, "Breaking Nature's Bones," from *A Theory of Race* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 80-112.

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.

Mari Mikkola, "Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism, and Women," *Hypatia* 21.4 (Fall 2006): 77-96.

Natalie Stoljar, "Different Women. Gender and the Realism-Nominalism Debate," in *Feminist Metaphysics: Explorations in the Ontology of Sex, Gender and Self*, ed. Charlotte Witt, Feminist Philosophy Collection (Dordrecht: Springer, 2011), 27-46.