

## Philosophy 463: Introduction to Metaphysics

Fall 2007

### General information

Time: T R 1:30 – 3:18 PM  
Location: 306 Pomerene Hall  
Webpage: <http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/caplan16/463.htm>

### Instructor Ben Caplan

Office: 337F University Hall  
Office hours: W 1:30 – 3:18 PM or by appointment  
Phone: 292.7914  
Email: [caplan.16@osu.edu](mailto:caplan.16@osu.edu)

### Grader Wesley Cray

Office: 214 University Hall  
Office hours: R 3:30 – 5:18 PM  
Phone: 292.3663  
Email: [cray.15@osu.edu](mailto:cray.15@osu.edu)

### Course description

We will address three topics: universals, fictional characters, and musical works. In the first part of the course, we will ask whether blueness, for example, exists and, if so, what it is like. (For example, is it located where the blue things are?) In the second part of the course, we will ask whether Sherlock Holmes, for example, exists and, if so, what Sherlock Holmes is like. (For example, did Sherlock Holmes come into existence in the nineteenth century? Does Sherlock Holmes have any of the properties that are attributed to Sherlock Holmes in the fiction?) In the third part of the course, we will ask whether Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, for example, exists and, if so, what it is like. (For example, did it come into existence in the nineteenth century? Is it individuated by who composed it or by the musico-historical context in which it was composed?)

## **Readings**

Readings will be available electronically through the course webpage or through Carmen. A schedule will be posted and updated on the course webpage.

## **Course requirements**

First assignment	20%
Second assignment	40%
Third assignment	40%

Each of the assignments will be a short paper. The first assignment will be shorter than the second and third assignments. No assignment will be longer than 5 pages.

## **Disabilities**

Students who might need accommodations are encouraged to contact me and the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

## **Academic misconduct**

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. You are responsible for knowing what counts as academic misconduct. You might want to consult the Code of Student Conduct or the Committee on Academic Misconduct:

[http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)  
and  
<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.