

## Advanced Metaphysics (Philosophy 663)

Fall 2009

### *General information*

Instructor: Ben Caplan  
Time: T R 1:30 – 3:18 PM  
Location: 353 University Hall  
Office: 337F University Hall  
Office hours: W 1:30 – 3:18 PM or by appointment  
Phone: 292.2479  
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### *Course description*

What, if anything, is the golden mountain, the round square, or Harry Potter? In the first part of the course, we'll look at the 1904-1907 dispute between Alexius Meinong and Bertrand Russell. On Meinong's view, the golden mountain, the round square, and Harry Potter are objects that lack being. On Russell's view, by contrast, no realm—not even the vastest realm of objects—includes the golden mountain, the round square, or Harry Potter. In the second part of the course, we'll look at a more recent dispute between Peter van Inwagen (and others) and Anthony Everett (and others). On van Inwagen's view, Harry Potter is an actually existing abstract object. On Everett's view, by contrast, no realm—and certainly not the realm of actually existing abstract objects—includes Harry Potter.

### *Readings*

Readings will be available electronically.

### *Course requirements*

Your final grade will be based on two short assignments (30% each) and a final paper (40%). Each short assignment will be either a problem set or a short paper (3-5 pages). The final paper should be about 5-10 pages.

### *Disabilities*

Students who might need accommodations are encouraged to contact me and the Office for Disability Services (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>).

### *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/pdfs/csc\\_12-31-07.pdf](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf)

and

<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

### *Outline*

A detailed and updated outline will be posted on the course webpage.