

PIU33061 and PIU33062 | Metaphysics: A Survey

Credits:	PIU33063 (5 ECTS); PIU33061 (10 ECTS)
Semester:	Hilary
Instructor:	Alison Fernandes
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Room:	5005
Office hours:	By appointment
Prerequisites:	N/A

Module Outline

In this module, we'll explore contemporary issues in metaphysics, focusing on how metaphysics is relevant to science and the everyday. Metaphysics presents itself as the study of what there is (ontology), and what reality is like at its most fundamental level.

While science and other enterprises may tell us about the world, metaphysics promises to provide the most objective, systematic and comprehensive account of reality possible. We'll survey a number of so-called 'first-order' metaphysical debates that attempt to answer these aims, including debates about ontology, kinds, time, and causation.

Through examining how these debates relate to science, ethics, and our overall conception of the world, students will develop their own views about what metaphysics is, and why it matters.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Accurately explain first-order metaphysical accounts, based on primary texts and secondary reading.
- Critically evaluate arguments for and against these positions.
- Explain the relevance of metaphysical debates for science, ethics, and the everyday.
- Develop their own ideas about the nature and purpose of metaphysics.

Reading List

See Blackboard

Course Requirements

Assessment for 10 ECTS:

1 Essay 40%

1 Argumentative Essay Outline 20%

1 Opinion Piece 20%

1 Podcast Presentation 20%

Assessment for 5 ECTS:

1 Essay: 60%

1 Opinion Piece 40%

Essays are 2,500 words. Opinion Pieces are 1000 words. Podcast presentations are 8–10 minutes.