

## Metaphysics | PIP77041

Year	MPhil
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Alison Fernandes
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### Module Outline:

In this module, students will explore contemporary issues in metaphysics, with a view to developing their own ideas about the nature and purpose of metaphysics. Metaphysics presents itself as the study of the fundamental nature of the world. It promises to provide a guide to reality at its most objective and deepest. Yet debate over particular topics in metaphysics often involves quite different appeals to science, experience, intuition and explanation. In this module, we'll examine metaphysical debates about scientific modalities (law, causation, chance), consider what standards are driving these debates, and in what sense these debates are substantive. We'll explore a range of positions, including 'deflationary' positions that take metaphysical debates to be non-substantive, and competing visions of what metaphysics is supposed to be.

### Assessment:

1 presentation (20% of overall mark); 1 3000 word essay (80% of overall mark)

### Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module. But among the essential readings for the early weeks of the course will be

Seager, William. 2000. 'Metaphysics, Role in Science'. In W. H. Newton-Smith (ed.) *A Companion to the Philosophy of Science* Hoboken, NJ: Blackwell.

Quine, Willard V. 1948. 'On What There Is'. *The Review of Metaphysics*, 2(5): 21–38.

Carnap, Rudolf. 1950. 'Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology.' *Revue Internationale de Philosophie*, 4: 20–40. Reprinted as a supplement to *Meaning and Necessity: A Study in Semantics and Modal Logic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1956, pp. 205–21.