



Metaphysics | PIU33062

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Emma Otterski
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Module Outline:

Does the table in front of you exist? What does the viral internet phenomenon ‘the dress’ tell us about the kind of thing that colour is? Could I have chosen to drink coffee instead of tea this morning? What is gender? All of these questions fall under the branch of philosophy called ‘metaphysics’. Through exploring philosophical positions regarding the nature of objects, colour, free will, and gender, in this course we will encounter important metaphysical themes and concepts. These include realism vs. antirealism in particular domains, the relationship between science, human experience, and metaphysics, and the role that common sense plays when thinking about what kind of things there are and how they are.

Assessment:

2 Essays: 1 midterm (25%)
 1 end of module (75%)

Recommended Reading List:

An extensive and detailed reading list will be made available at the start of the module. To prepare for it, please read the following:

- Timothy Williamson, “What is Metaphysics?” Blog post, which is available here: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/blog/what-is-metaphysics/>
- Daniel Z. Korman, "Ordinary Objects", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = [<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/ordinary-objects/>](https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/ordinary-objects/)