

Metaphysics | PIU33064

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Richard Teague
Contact Email	[tcd email pending]

Module Outline:

Metaphysics studies the fundamental nature of reality and existence. By rational and rigorous means, the metaphysician aims to understand and explore such questions as these: What kinds of things exist? What does it mean to say that something exists? When do two things make up a third? What makes an object the same object even after it has undergone changes? How can one thing make another thing happen? What exactly is a coincidence? What is the nature of time, and does it really pass? Is space a substance, and, if not, then what is it? And how is motion possible?

In this class we will address questions like these and more. By exploring various influential theories, we will acquire a precise vocabulary and conceptual toolkit for discussing and thinking about metaphysics productively in the following domains:

- Ontology
- Parts, Wholes, and Identity
- Causation and Chance
- Space, Time, and Motion

Assessment:

1 Essays (end of module) (50%); 1 Examination (end of module) 50%.

Recommended Reading List:

A detailed list of required readings will be made available at the start of the module. The following readings should be used as an introductory guide to the class and will be covered in our early lectures:

- Williamson, T (2020) What is Metaphysics? Online at: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/blog/what-is-metaphysics/>
- Lowe, E.J. *A Survey of Metaphysics*: Chapter 1: The Nature of Metaphysics, Oxford University Press, pp. 1 – 16.



- Quine, W.V.O (1948). On What There Is. Review of Metaphysics 2, pp.21-38.
Reprinted in From a Logical Point of View. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press,
1–19