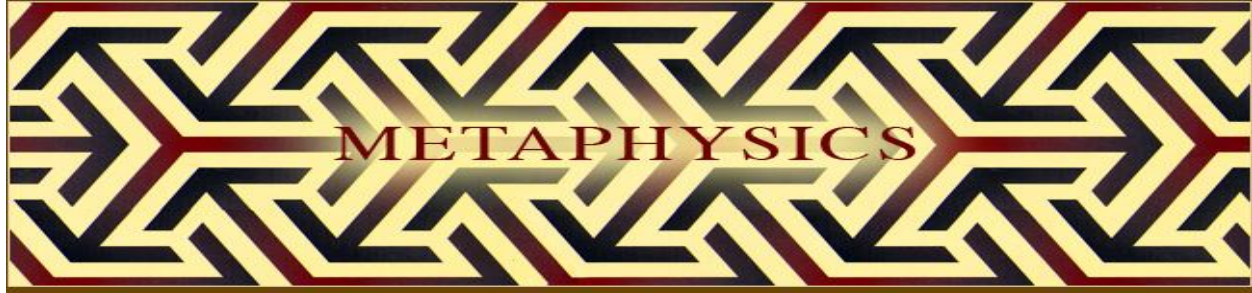


Philosophy 3601G
Winter 2017



January to April, 2017
Room TC 303
Lectures: M 2.30-4.30 & W 3.30-4.30

Professor John Thorp <jthorp@uwo.ca>
Stevenson Hall 4141
Office Hours: W 1.00-3.00

Course Outline

Course description: "Metaphysics" is a word that often strikes terror into the undergraduate heart. And yet it should not be so. This course will consider four traditional questions of metaphysics; the treatment, while invoking historical positions, will be contemporary.

1. Do we have free will?
2. What is time?
3. Could our souls survive the body's death?
4. Do universals exist?

Textbook: Earl Conee & Theodore Sider, *Riddles of Existence*, Oxford University Press, 2014

Course objectives: It is often thought that metaphysics is a murky, fuzzy, "anything-goes" sort of affair. This course will undertake to counter that misunderstanding by engaging in a highly disciplined, rigorous and well-organized study of four main problems of metaphysics. In addition to offering students a broad understanding of these questions and their treatment, the course, by dint of its three short thematic papers will enhance students' ability to organize their ideas and to present them in a clear and engaging way.

Method of instruction: lectures with class discussion

Requirements: Three short thematic papers (about 2000 words) due in early February, mid-March and early April (30% each); participation 10%

Prerequisite: Philosophy 2500 F/G, Introduction to Theory of Knowledge

Audit: Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the

Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students are directed to view the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

Policy on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

Statement on Use of Plagiarism Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Additional Links

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)