



Metaphysics PHIL6308
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
June 12-23, 2017

RAYMOND B. STEWART
ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR
Phone: 504-256-0800
Email: ray.stewart13@gmail.com

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for the 2016-17 year is *Characteristic Excellence*—“What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition and Christian Theological Heritage.

Course Description

We will investigate several topics of perennial importance in metaphysics. These are the mind-body problem, the nature of time, tense and persistence through time, freewill, and the existence of God—particularly in the cosmological argument. We will also investigate how each of these topics related

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be introduced to some basic issues related to metaphysics by reading the assigned readings and attending class lectures.
2. Students will interact critically with some basic issues related to metaphysics by reading the primary texts and assigned readings and submitting questions, comments, or criticism related to the assigned reading.
3. Students will demonstrate basic knowledge of an issue related to metaphysics by writing a research paper on a topic approved by the instructor.

Required Textbooks

All assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Because metaphysics is an expansive subject and time is limited, there are many important areas that we will not touch on. These include, but are not limited to, grounding, universals, causation, truth, modal ontology and semantics and many other arguments for God's existence. Students wishing to write on any of these topics should meet with me and I will suggest readings for them.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Students will meet for class at the NOBTS main campus according to the following schedule:

Mondays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays - Fridays 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Assignments will be turned in at a later date and evaluated via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

1. Students will attend each class session and engage in class discussion on issues covered in the class lectures.
2. Students will read assigned readings and submit daily questions, comments, or criticisms related to the reading.
3. Students will write a research paper.

Assignments

- **Daily Questions:** Students will submit one question, comment on or criticism of the day's reading *at the beginning of class*. 10%
- **Attendance/Participation:** Students shall be graded on both their attendance and on their actively engaging the material in class. 10%
- **Pre-Draft Materials:** In preparation for the first draft of the final paper, students shall come up with a question to investigate, a reading list, and eventually an abstract. 20%
- **Draft of the Final Paper:** 25%
- **Final Paper:** 35%

Due Dates for Assignments

Pre-Draft Materials are due on Friday, June 30, 2017

Draft of the Final Paper is due on Friday, July 14, 2017

Final Paper is due on Friday, July 28, 2017

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
5. CIV@nobts.edu – Email for technical questions regarding NOLA2U or BlueJeans support,

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: June 12-16

Part 1: Time

1. Time Part 1: Eternalism and Presentism
 - a. *Introductory Materials: Time*
 - b. Ney, “Time” in *Metaphysics: An Introduction*, Alyssa Ney, New York, Routledge, 2014.
2. Time Part 2: Persistence
 - a. *Introductory Materials: Composition*
 - b. Ney, “Persistence”
 - c. Sider, “Temporal Parts” in CDM, p. 241-262.
3. God and Time
 - a. Wolterstorff “God is Everlasting”
 - b. Aron Wall “God and Time 2”: (<http://www.wall.org/~aron/blog/god-and-time-ii-special-relativity/>)
 - c. Katherine Rogers, “Eternity Has No Duration”

Part 2: Mind and Body

4. The Mind-Body Problem 1:
 - a. *Introductory Materials*
 - b. *IEP: Consciousness*
 - c. John Spackman, “Consciousness and the Prospects for Substance Dualism,” *Philosophy Compass* 8 (2013), p. 1054-1065
5. The Mind Body Problem 2:

- a. Dean Zimmerman: “Materialism and Survival”
- b. Richard Swinburne: “The Soul Needs a Brain to Continue to Function”
(<http://people.ds.cam.ac.uk/dhm11/Swinburne.html>)

Week 2: June 19-23

Part 3:

Freewill:

6. Freewill Part 1: Compatibilism and Incompatibilism
 - a. Harry Frankfurt “Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility”
 - b. Carroll and Markosian, “Freedom and Determinism” in *An Introduction to Metaphysics*, John Carroll and Ned Markosian, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010. Chap 3, p. 45-78.

7. Freewill Part 2: Freewill and Theism
 - a. Derk Pereboom “Libertarianism and Theological Determinism”
 - b. Neal Judisch “Theological Determinism and the Problem of Evil.”

Part 4: The Cosmological

The Cosmological Argument:

8. Cosmological Arguments Part 1
 - a. Alex Pruss, “Leibnizian Cosmological Arguments”

9. Cosmological Arguments Part 2:
 - a. Graham Oppy “Cosmological Arguments”
 - b. Raymond Stewart “The Diet Cosmological Argument”

FOR NOLA2U Users -- Requirements for Using BlueJeans

BlueJeans is a cloud-based system to connect your computer to the seminary system. BlueJeans allows you to connect from anywhere in the world, as long as you have an internet connection. Since BlueJeans is a video-conferencing host for class meetings, there are some basic details you need to know before joining your first class.

The CIV Department will be your point of contact for joining a BlueJeans meeting and when problems arise. They can be contacted at civ@nobts.edu or (504) 816-8431.

You will receive two emails from the CIV Department. The first email will give the link to the meeting with the meeting ID number. A second email will set up a testing time with the NOBTS CIV office.

What do I need to use BlueJeans within the NOBTS system?

- Ethernet cable connection (WiFi is not acceptable). The Ethernet cable connects from back of modem or router to your computer.
- A Webcam (laptops have built-in webcam)
- A headset with a microphone
- A quiet place with limited distractions

What are the guidelines for communicating on BlueJeans?

- There is a one-second delay from the time anyone speaks.
- Remember to keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking to the class.
- Let the speaker know if you cannot hear them, so they can adjust their volume.
- Contact the CIV department for assistance immediately if you are having problems. They can be contacted at civ@nobts.edu or (504) 816-8431.

Bibliography

- Anglin, W. S. *Free Will and the Christian Faith*. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1990.
- Bambrough, R. *New Essays on Plato and Aristotle*. London: Routledge, 2012.
- Bogen, J. and McGuire, J.E., *How Things Are: Studies in Predication and the History of Philosophy*. Dordrecht: Springer, 1983.
- Broad, C. D. *The Mind and its Place in Nature*. London: Lund Humphries, 1925.
- Campbell, Keith. *Body and Mind*. Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, 1970.
- John Carroll and Ned Markosian. *An Introduction to Metaphysics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Chalmers, David J. *The Conscious Mind: In Search of a Fundamental Theory*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996.
- Churchland, Paul. *Matter and Consciousness*. Revised Edition. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1988.
- Dennett, Daniel. *Elbow Room: The Varieties of Free Will Worth Having*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984.
- Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.
- Frede, Michael. *Essays in Ancient Philosophy*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987.
- Freeland, Cynthia A., *Feminist Interpretations of Aristotle*. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1998.
- Guttenplan, Samuel. *A Companion to the Philosophy of Mind*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.
- Kim, Jaegwon, Daniel Z. Korman, and Ernest Sosa. *Metaphysics: An Anthology*. 2d ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.
- Kripke, Saul. *Naming and Necessity*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1972.
- Laurence, Stephen and Cynthia Macdonald. *Contemporary Readings in the Foundations of Metaphysics*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.
- Lewis, David. *On the Plurality of Worlds*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1986.

- Loux, Michael J. *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*. 3d ed. New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Loux, Michael J. *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*. 2d ed. New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Lowe, E. J. *A Survey of Metaphysics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Lowe, E. J. 2006, *The Four-Category Ontology: A Metaphysical Foundation for Natural Science*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 2006.
- McGinn, Colin. *Problems in Philosophy: The Limits of Inquiry*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1993.
- McMullin, E. *The Concept of Matter in Greek and Medieval Philosophy*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1965.
- McTaggart, J. M. E. 1908, "The Unreality of Time" *Mind*, 17: 457–474.
- Moravcsik, J. M. E., *Aristotle: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press 1974.
- Ney, Alyssa. *Metaphysics: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2014.
- Plantinga, Alvin. *The Nature of Necessity*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1974.
- Ryle, Gilbert. *The Concept of Mind*. University Paperbacks. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1949.
- Sider, Theodore. John Hawthorne, and Dean W. Zimmerman, *Contemporary Debates in Metaphysics*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.
- Sider, Theodore. *Writing the Book of the World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Taylor, Richard. *Metaphysics. 3rd edition*. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs 1983.
- Timpe, Kevin and Daniel Speak. *Free Will and Theism: Connections, Contingencies, and Concerns*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- van Inwagen, Peter. *Metaphysics*. 3d ed. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2008.
- van Inwagen, Peter, and Dean W. Zimmerman. *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*. 2d ed. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- Wisdom, John. *Problems of Mind and Matter*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1934.