

**MORAVIAN COLLEGE**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**Fall 2012**

**PHIL 353 Metaphysics**  
**TR 1:00-2:20**

Classroom: PPHAC 103  
Instructor: Dr. Bernie Cantens  
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Phone/E-Mail: (610) 861-1589/ bcantens@moravian.edu  
Web Page: <http://berniephilosophy.com/>

Office Hours: TR 2:30-3:30  
F 11:30-12:30 (Class days only)

**Text**

*Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*. Edited by Steven D. Hales. Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1999.

**Course Description**

A study of contemporary analytic metaphysics, adopting a pre-Kantian or traditional metaphysical perspective. The course approaches metaphysics as the study of first causes and of being *qua* being, or as the most general discipline of all that studies the nature and structure of reality. *Fall, Alternate Years, Prerequisites: PHIL 120 Introduction to Philosophy or consent of instructor*

**Course Objectives**

1. To ascertain what are the basic categories of reality, if there are any.
2. To investigate the nature of the different categories of reality.
3. To study the *relations* among the different ontological categories.
4. To examine the *relations* among the different things within the same category (mereology).

**Learning Outcomes**

1. To explain the nature of the discipline of metaphysics (i.e. ontology).
2. To identify the basic structure and categories of reality, if there are any.
3. To explain the nature of the different categories of reality.
4. To recognize and explain the nature of the relations among the different categories of reality.
5. To recognize and explain the relations among the different things within a category of reality.

**Learning Methods:**

Readings, Lectures, Discussions, and Handouts

**Disability Statement**

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main

Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center”

### **Extra Credit**

Students can earn 3 extra points by attending 3 Philosophy Club meetings or other departmental events.

### **Learning Methods**

**Multimedia** This course will combine traditional classroom lecturing with multimedia presentations. Some lectures will be supplemented with power point presentations. All course materials, such as syllabus, review questions, term paper information, etc., will be posted on my website: <http://www.berniephilosophy.com> . This will give students direct access to most of the materials for this class at their convenience.

**Class Dynamic** Class participation is expected of all students enrolled in this course. Questions and class discussions are encouraged as an effective vehicle to motivate students’ interest in the subject matter. *If there are few questions and little discussion taking place in the classroom, the professor reserves the right to choose individual students to answer questions or give their view and the arguments on a particular issue.*

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Students **must** bring their text to every class! Students will lose 1 point for every unexcused absence up to a possible 5 points.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy** (See Student Handbook pp. 32–38)

**Student Behavior** (See Student Handbook pp. 38–40)

### **Course Requirements**

Reading of assignments before class is essential to succeed in this course. Class participation, note taking, and discussion are highly encouraged. The study of philosophy requires students to read analytically and reflect critically. When studying difficult material, it is often necessary to read it several times before a proper understanding is achieved. Do not be disappointed if you do not understand a philosophical reading assignment on your first try.

### **Grading/Measures of Evaluations**

Assignments 25%  
Mid-term 25%  
Term Paper 25%  
Final Exam 25%

A=100-95; A- =94-90; B+=89-87; B=86-84; B- = 83-80; C+=79-77; C = 76-70; D=69-60; F= <59

**PROGRAM AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Lists of Readings, Assignments, Exams and Dates:

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>CONTENT &amp; READING</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>MEREOLGY</b>	
August 28	Introduction	
August 30	W.V. Quine, “identity, Ostension, Hypostasis”	
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>MEREEOLGY</b>	
Sept. 4	Mark Heller, “Temporal Parts of Four Dimensional Objects”	<b>Assignment 1</b>
Sept. 6	Peter van Inwagen, “Four Dimensional Objects”	
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>EXISTENCE</b>	
Sept. 11	Nicholas Rescher, “On Explaining Existence”.	<b>Assignment 2</b>
Sept. 13	Convocation (No Class)	
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>REALISM/ANTIREALISM</b>	
Sept. 18	Micheal Dummett, “Realism and Anti-Realism”	<b>Assignment 3</b>
Sept. 20	Hilary Putnam, “Why There Isn’t a Ready-Made World”	
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>REALISM/ANTIREALISM</b>	
Sept. 25	Ernest Sosa, “Putnam’s Pragmatic Realism”	<b>Assignment 4</b>

Sept. 27	Michael Devitt, "A Naturalistic Defense of Realism"	
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>	
Oct. 2	Review	
Oct. 4	<b>Midterm</b>	
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>TRUTH</b>	
Oct. 9	<b>Recess</b>	
Oct. 11	Susan Haack, "The Pragmatists Theory of Truth"	
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>TRUTH</b>	
Oct. 16	Nicholas Rescher "Truth as Ideal Coherence"	<b>Assignment 5</b>
Oct. 18	Paul Horwich, "The Deflationary View of Truth"	
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>ABSTRACTA</b>	
Oct. 23	W.V. Quine, "On What There is"	<b>Assignment 6</b>
Oct. 25	David M Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes"	
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<b>SECONDARY QUALITIES</b>	
Oct. 30	David Armstrong, "The Secondary Qualities"	
Nov. 1	Boghossian and Velleman, "Color as a Secondary Quality"	
<b>WEEK 11</b>	<b>EVENTS</b>	

Nov. 6	Donald Davidson, "The Individuation of Events"	
Nov. 8	Jeagwon Kim, "Events as Property Exemplification"	
<b>WEEK 12</b>	<b>CONCRETA: SUBSTANCE</b>	
Nov. 13	James Van Cleve, "Three Versions of Bundle Theory"	
Nov. 15	Peter Simmons, "Particular in Particular Clothing: Three Thrope Theories of Substance"	
<b>WEEK 13</b>	<b>DEPENDENT PARTICULARS: HOLES BOUNDARIES AND SURFACES</b>	
Nov. 20	"Boundaries as Dependent Particulars" Roderick Chisholm	<b>Term Paper</b>
Nov. 22	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	
<b>WEEK 14</b>	<b>TIME</b>	
Nov. 27	The Nature of Time, Michael Loux	<b>Handout</b>
Nov. 29	The Nature of Time, Michael Loux	
<b>WEEK 15</b>	<b>MODALITY</b>	
Dec. 4	The Necessary and the Possible, Michael Loux	<b>Handout</b>
Dec. 6	The Necessary and the Possible, Michael Loux	
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>Final Exam Tuesday, 8:30 AM</b>	