

<b>Metaphysics</b>
<b>Instructor:</b> Daniel Kodaj
<p><b>General aim of the course:</b> The aim of the course is to introduce students to contemporary metaphysics.</p> <p><b>Content of the course:</b></p> <p>Metaphysics studies the most general categories and phenomena, like existence, change, time, identity, cause and effect. Originally a precursor of modern science, metaphysics is sometimes portrayed as an outdated rival of ‘real’ science. In fact, metaphysics is a living and developing research area that asks hard questions about the foundations of reality.</p> <p>This seminar introduces students to some of the classic topics of contemporary (analytic) metaphysics, including monism, the reality of the external world, time, free will, personal identity, and Platonism. We will read and discuss user-friendly texts that present a very specific view of these problems. Students are invited to criticize the theories they encounter and develop your own perspective on metaphysics.</p> <p><b>Grading criteria, specific requirements:</b>  <u>BA and non-philosophy MA:</u>  2 in-class tests (midterm and final; 20 Oct and 8 Dec) (2 x 35 points)  Short tests at the beginning of classes about the readings (10 x 5 points)</p> <p>The midterm and final tests will be based on the readings. They will consist of multiple-choice questions and short questions about the texts, and an essay question. If you miss one or both tests, there will be a make-up test session in the first week of the exam period (probably 16 December).</p> <p>Grading: 0–59 points F, 60–69 points D, 70–79 points C, 80–89 points B, 90+ points A.</p> <p><u>Philosophy or logic MA:</u>  Same as the BA requirements but the tests will be harder.</p> <p><u>PhD:</u>  1. In-class presentation of one of the readings, and  2. essay (min. 2000 words, deadline: 11 January).</p> <p>Late submission incurs a –1 grade penalty per week (–1 from 12 January, –2 from 19 January etc.). Essays written by ChatGPT result in an F.</p> <p><b>Required readings:</b>  Jubien, Michael (1997): <i>Contemporary Metaphysics</i>. Blackwell.  van Inwagen, Peter (2009): <i>Metaphysics</i>. Westview Press.</p>