

Metaphysics | PIP77041

Year	MPhil
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 hours
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Alison Fernandes
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Module Outline:

In this module, students will explore contemporary issues in metaphysics, with a view to developing their own ideas about the nature and purpose of metaphysics. Metaphysics presents itself as the study of the fundamental nature of the world. It promises to provide a guide to reality at its most objective and deepest. Yet debate over particular topics in metaphysics often involves quite different appeals to science, experience, intuition and explanation. In this module, we'll examine metaphysical debates about scientific modalities (law, causation, chance), consider what standards are driving these debates, and in what sense these debates are substantive. We'll explore a range of positions, including 'deflationary' positions that take metaphysical debates to be non-substantive, and competing visions of what metaphysics is supposed to be.

Assessment:

MPhil and PhD students are required to complete a presentation (20% of overall mark) and an essay (80% of overall mark).

For MPhil students, the essay has a word limit of 3000 words. Topics are to be agreed with me in advance. For PhD students, the essay has a word limit of 3500 words.

The presentation schedule will be set at the first meeting. Presentations are to be 10-12 minutes long. Students are required to explain the most important arguments and claims of the relevant text, and raise 1–3 additional original points for further discussion. Written presentation material (such as a handout or slides) that is viewable by the whole audience must be submitted at the time of the presentation. Presentations may cover the same topics as the essay.

Recommended Reading List:

See Blackboard