



## CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	PHIL 203	Course Title	Metaphysics			
Credit Value	3	Department	Humanities			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	An examination of central problems of metaphysics such as space and time, universals and particulars, substance, identity and individuation and personal identity.					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 100 and one of: PHIL 100, PHIL 110, or PHIL 120 (B-)					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	PHIL 2nd (3)	PHIL 203 (3)	PHIL 252 (1.5)	PHIL 2XX (3)	PHIL 2150 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, <a href="http://www.bctransferguide.ca">www.bctransferguide.ca</a>					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss historical and contemporary metaphysics topics in class.</li> <li>• Recognize and employ the terminology, concepts, and methods of metaphysical debates.</li> <li>• Apply philosophical tools such as argument, counter-example, thought experiment, and conceptual distinctions to the subject matter of metaphysics.</li> <li>• Write in moderate depth about metaphysical topics, developing or articulating a reflection or an opinion on a theory, view, or argument relevant to that topic.</li> </ul>					
Content	<p><b>Core</b> topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence</li> <li>• Truth and facts</li> <li>• Modality (possibility and necessity)</li> <li>• Abstract objects</li> <li>• Properties (or universals)</li> <li>• Space and time</li> <li>• Causation</li> <li>• Laws of nature</li> <li>• Substance</li> <li>• Material objects (composition and persistence)</li> <li>• The nature of human persons</li> <li>• Personal identity</li> <li>• Free will and determinism</li> </ul>					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mind and mental states</li> </ul> <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor.</p>		
Methods of Instruction	Lectures, class discussion, small group discussion.		
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Conee, E.B. and Theodore S. Riddles of Existence. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.</p> <p>Mumford, Stephen. Metaphysics: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.</p>		
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office 365</li> <li>Student email</li> </ul>		
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.		
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>	
	Quizzes and midterms	20-50%	
	Short assignments	0-20%	
	Participation	0-10%	
	Final examination	30-50%	
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.		
Course Designer(s)	Norman Swartz, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University	Consultant(s), <i>if applicable</i>	Jillian McIntosh, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University
Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	February 26, 2014
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	February 26, 2014	First Term Offered	Fall 2014
Last Review Date	January 24, 2020	Next Review Date	January 24, 2025
Revision History	<p>January 24, 2020 – Updates to course description, textbooks and learning resources by Sebastian Huebel in consultation with Jill McIntosh, Lindsey bat Joseph, and Library staff.</p> <p>September 1, 2024 – English prerequisite increased to ENGL 100, effective Fall 2024.</p>		