

# PHIL20039 The Nature of Reality

Credit Points:	12.50											
Level:	2 (Undergraduate)											
Dates & Locations:	This subject is not offered in 2013. Standard											
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 3 (2x 1 hour lectures each week and 1x 1 hour tutorial in weeks 2-12) Total Time Commitment: an average of 8.5 hours per week											
Prerequisites:	None.											
Corequisites:	None.											
Recommended Background Knowledge:	One of the following subjects is recommended but not required: <table><tr><th>Subject</th><th>Study Period Commencement:</th><th>Credit Points:</th></tr><tr><td>PHIL10002 Philosophy: The Big Questions</td><td>Not offered 2013</td><td>12.50</td></tr><tr><td>PHIL10003 Philosophy: The Great Thinkers</td><td>Not offered 2013</td><td>12.50</td></tr></table>			Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:	PHIL10002 Philosophy: The Big Questions	Not offered 2013	12.50	PHIL10003 Philosophy: The Great Thinkers	Not offered 2013	12.50
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PHIL10003 Philosophy: The Great Thinkers	Not offered 2013	12.50										
Non Allowed Subjects:	None.											
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: <a href="http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/">http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/</a>											
Contact:	<b><u>Dr Dana Goswick</u></b> ( <a href="http://philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/about/staff/goswick/">http://philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/about/staff/goswick/</a> ) <b><u>dgoswick@unimelb.edu.au</u></b> ( <a href="mailto:dgoswick@unimelb.edu.au">mailto:dgoswick@unimelb.edu.au</a> )											
Subject Overview:	<p>Is there a reality independent of human beings, or do we construct the world? If reality is independent of human beings, then how do we gain epistemic access to it, i.e. how could we know about such a world? If reality isn't independent of human beings, how do we explain the extent to which our judgements covary, i.e. we both seem to think that there's a table in the dining room and that Elizabeth II is the Queen of England? In this subject we'll examine the metaphysical underpinnings of the nature of reality. In particular, we'll look at the nature of ordinary objects, whether there's such a thing as causation (i.e. Does A ever cause B to occur?), and whether realist (i.e. mind-independent) or anti-realist (i.e. mind-dependent) accounts of the world are correct.</p> <p>For further subject information please visit: <a href="http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/students/undergraduate/handbook-study-guides.html">http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/students/undergraduate/handbook-study-guides.html</a> (<a href="http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/students/undergraduate/handbook-study-guides.html">http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/students/undergraduate/handbook-study-guides.html</a>)</p>											
Objectives:	On completing this subject students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li># have a critical understanding of the main issues in contemporary analytical metaphysics.</li><li># have developed skills in philosophical reasoning concerning issues covered.</li><li># be in a position to go on to more advanced work in this area.</li></ul>											
Assessment:	Written assignment of 1000 words (due mid-semester): 30%. Written assignment of 2000 words (due end of semester): 50%. Two in-class Quizzes 10% each. Hurdle Requirements: A hurdle requirement of a minimum attendance at 80% of tutorials applies in this subject. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per day, after 5 working days late assessment will not be marked.											

	In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject..
<b>Prescribed Texts:</b>	A subject reader will be available at the university bookshop at the beginning of semester.
<b>Breadth Options:</b>	<p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># <b>Bachelor of Biomedicine</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-BMED">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-BMED</a>)</li> <li># <b>Bachelor of Commerce</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-COM">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-COM</a>)</li> <li># <b>Bachelor of Environments</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENVS">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENVS</a>)</li> <li># <b>Bachelor of Music</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-MUS">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-MUS</a>)</li> <li># <b>Bachelor of Science</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-SCI">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-SCI</a>)</li> <li># <b>Bachelor of Engineering</b> (<a href="https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENG">https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENG</a>)</li> </ul> <p>You should visit <b>learn more about breadth subjects</b> (<a href="http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html">http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html</a>) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p>
<b>Fees Information:</b>	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>
<b>Generic Skills:</b>	<p>Students who successfully complete this subject should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># develop familiarity with the main issues in contemporary metaphysics and ability to understand how metaphysics fits with other disciplines, and how it applies outside academia.</li> <li># develop the ability to think critically and systematically about abstract intellectual problems, and the ability to apply such abstract reasoning to concrete situations.</li> <li># develop the ability to read critically and to analyze ideas (one's own and those of the authors read) orally and in writing.</li> </ul>
<b>Links to further information:</b>	<a href="http://www.philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/">http://www.philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/</a>
<b>Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:</b>	<p>Philosophy  Philosophy  Philosophy  Philosophy Major</p>
<b>Related Breadth Track(s):</b>	Epistemology, Metaphysics & Science