

Philosophy is the strangest of subjects: it aims at rigor and yet is unable to establish any results; it attempts to deal with the most profound questions and yet constantly finds itself preoccupied with the trivialities of language; and it claims to be of great relevance to rational enquiry and the conduct of our life and yet is almost completely ignored. But perhaps what is strangest of all is the passion and intensity with which it is pursued by those who have fallen in its grip.

Kit Fine (Professor of Philosophy, NYU)

Metaphysics

PHL 215

Summer 2014

Hybrid, some classes (TBD) in person at Scott Hall, rm 115, Wednesdays, 1.45-5.25.

Janelle Derstine, Ph.D. (expected, Rutgers)

Contact: The best way to reach me is by emailing me at the.derstine@rutgers.edu
Always include your **LAST NAME** and **META** in any correspondence.

Office Hours: by appointment, on days we have class on campus.

Required Texts: An Introduction to Metaphysics by John Carroll and Ned Markosian, ISBN 978-0-521-53368-3

Undergraduate Learning Outcomes:

As a result of fully participating in this class, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the key theories and concepts involved in contemporary and classical Metaphysics
- b) Critically examine how these theories pertain to current debates in the field
- c) Summarize, write and verbalize key theories and concepts studied

Expectations for All Students:

All participants in the course are expected to:

- 1) Commit to attending each class session, or online session;
- 2) Be prepared to discuss assigned readings and engage positively in class activities;
- 3) Be willing to examine and share their own issues and experiences;
- 4) Be respectful of different perspectives offered by classmates and professor
- 5) Complete assignments and participate in online discussions weekly

Grading:

35 %: Weekly HW answers to study questions on readings

25 %: Discussion Board Participation on readings (Three 150 word posts per week)

30 %: Final test (essay and short answer)

10 %: Participation, attention, and attitude: see “student expectations”, above.
Technology will be used heavily: you must familiarize yourself with Sakai in order to do well in this class. **You must be able to access the web regularly.**