

PHI 3500/3B45
Metaphysics

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This is a synchronous on-line class, meaning that it will meet at the assigned times: MWF period 6 (12:50 – 1:40). In addition to the three scheduled class meetings, each week there will be a discussion session for those interested (M 3:00 – 4:00) and office hours for individual meetings (T 2:00 – 3:00 and F 2:00 – 3:00) (All will be on Zoom.)

There will be two examinations, a mid-term and a final. You will receive the questions a week before the exam is due to be submitted by e-mail. (For dates, see below.) In addition, you may write a paper. You can choose your own topic (but must get it approved) or write on one of two default topics to be distributed in mid-November. You can get comments on a draft if you submit it by the end of November. The deadline for the paper is December 9. The second exam will be distributed on that date and will be due on the 16th. If you write a paper, the lowest of your three grades will be dropped.

For most of the semester, we will be exploring some long-debated questions about the individuation and identity conditions of ordinary material objects: what makes one the object it is, distinct from others, and what makes it the same object over time. Our discussions will be based on recent papers on these topics which will be made available in a course-pack. Towards the end of the semester, we will take a brief look at parallel questions concerning persons.

It is essential that you read the piece to be discussed before class and re-read it as soon after class as possible. When you read it

before class, it is a good idea to try to write down briefly what you take the author's main claim and his argument for it to be and to check after class to see if your understanding has changed or you missed something important. If so, write down a new summary to which you can refer when preparing for the exams. (More on the nature of the exams and how to prepare for them closer to the time.)

Readings in course pack available from Target:

1. Michael C. Rea, ed. (1997) "Introduction" *Material Constitution*, Rowman and Littlefield, pp. xv-xix (ISBN 0-8476-8383-4) (extract)
2. Michael B. Burke (1980) "Cohabitation, Stuff, and Intermittent Existence" *Mind* 89, pp. 391-405 (ISSN 00264423)
3. Richard Cartwright (1975) "Scattered Objects" in *Analysis and Metaphysics*, K. Lehrer, ed., Reidel: Dordrecht, pp.157-8 (ISBN 9027705712) (extract)
4. John Biro (2017) "Are there scattered objects?" *Metaphysica* 8/2, pp. 155-65
5. David Wiggins (1968) "On Being in the Same Place at the Same Time" *The Philosophical Review* 77/1, pp. 90-2 (ISSN 0031-8108) (extract)
6. Christopher Hughes (1997) "Same-kind Coincidence and the Ship of Theseus" *Mind* 106, pp. 53-67 (ISSN 0026423)
7. Alan Gibbard (1975)"Contingent Identity" *Journal of Philosophical Logic* 4, pp.188-92 (ISSN 00223611) (extract)
8. Crawford Elder (1998) "Essential Properties and Coinciding Objects" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 58, pp. 317-31
9. Michael Jubien (2009) *Possibility*, Oxford University Press, pp. 15-22 (ISBN13: 9780199232789) (extract)

10. John Biro *b* (2018) "Constitution and identity" *Erkenntnis* 83/6, pp. 1127-38
11. John Biro *c* (2016) "Co-location and separability" *Philosophical Inquiries* IV, pp. 29-36
12. John Biro *d* (2019) "Persistence conditions and identity" *Metaphysica* 20/1, pp. 73-82
13. John Biro *e* (forthcoming) "Leading a double life: statues and pieces of clay" *Metaphysica*
14. Peter van Inwagen (1990) *Material Beings*, Cornell University Press, pp. 124-31 (extract)
15. John Biro *f* (2018) "Saving the ship" *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 13/2, pp. 43-54
16. John Biro *g* (2020) "Rearranging the furniture" *Philosophia* 48/1, pp. 77-81
17. John Locke "Identity and Diversity" *Essay* Bk II, Ch XXVII
18. Thomas Reid "Locke's Account of Identity" *Essays* III
19. David Hume "Of personal identity" *Treatise* Bk I, Pt IV, Sec VI

Tentative schedule

Week 1 Introduction; Rea

Week 2	Burke	
Week 3	Cartwright; Biro <i>a</i>	
Week 4	Wiggins; Hughes	
Week 5	Gibbard; Elder	
Week 6	Elder; Jubien	
Week 7	Biro <i>b</i> ; Biro <i>c</i>	
Week 8	Biro <i>d</i> ; Biro <i>e</i>	First exam distributed
Week 9	van Inwagen	exam due
Week 10	Biro <i>f</i> ; Biro <i>g</i>	
Week 11	Locke	
Week 12	Locke	
Week 13	Reid	
Week 14	Hume	Second exam distributed
Dec 16		exam due

Please note the following university policies:

ACADEMIC HONESTY. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states,

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM POLICIES. Students are expected to attend class and to have done all assigned reading in advance. Failure to do so will adversely affect students' ability to perform well in this course. The use of laptop computers, smart phones, or other electronic devices during class is not permitted. Requirements for make-up exams are consistent with university policies specified at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

GENERAL EDUCATION. PHH 3500 counts towards the Humanities (H) and International (N) General Education requirements.