

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Undergraduate Course Outline
2021-2022**

Philosophy 4900G: Honours Capstone Seminar

Term: Winter

Instructor: Robert J. Stainton

Class Days and Hours: Tu 3:30-5:30; Th 3:30-4:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will introduce finishing Honours students to a specific area of contemporary philosophical research. Students will read and present on material recently published in the instructor's areas of expertise.

The specific topic for Winter 2022 will be the metaphysics of words. Metaphysics is the theory of "being". It encompasses issues such as what really exists, what fundamental categories things fall into, and how higher- and lower-level facts relate. For instance, questions about existence include whether free will really exists, whether God exists, and whether there are mind-independent facts. Regarding ontological categories, there seem to be abstract, concrete material and mental things: e.g., irrational numbers, rocks and tickling sensations respectively. There also seem to be both descriptive facts and normative facts: e.g., that Ottawa is the capital of Canada is descriptive whereas that it is permissible to kill in self-

presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal.

This option should only be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within the 48 hour time span. For longstanding medical issues or extensions beyond 48 hours students should seek assistance from

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.