

Philosophy 365/716: Contemporary Metaphysics I
Winter 2004

Time: Th 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: 383 University College
Instructor: Ben Caplan
Office: 468 University College
Office hours: M 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
F 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Or by appointment
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I. Description and Readings

This semester we will be reading Theodore Sider's *Four-Dimensionalism: An Ontology of Persistence and Time* (Oxford: Clarendon, 2001). Other readings will be made available to you as necessary. A tentative schedule will be posted and periodically updated on the course webpage. You will be expected to have done the readings before class and to bring the relevant texts with you.

II. Requirements

Option (A): three short papers (3-5 pages each), each worth 33.3% of the final grade.

Option (B): one long paper (10-15 pages), worth 100% of the final grade.

I will announce topics for the short papers on a more or less weekly basis. Short papers will be due on the Thursday after they are announced.

If you write a long paper, I must approve your topic. In addition, you will be required to meet with me at least twice during the semester: once, by the end of Week 7 (i.e. 27 February 2004), to discuss your topic; and again, by the end of Week 12 (i.e. 2 April 2004), to discuss your progress. The long paper is due one week after the last class, i.e. by 5 PM on Thursday, 15 April 2004.

III. A Warning about Academic Dishonesty

It is difficult to overstate the importance of academic honesty. If you are unsure about what counts as academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism) or about how to cite sources, ask. You are responsible for knowing the University of Manitoba regulations. Start by consulting the General Academic Regulations and Requirements, particularly Section 7 (Academic Integrity). See Section 7.1 (Plagiarism and Cheating at <http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar03/regulations/plagiarism.asp>) and Section 4.2.8. (Examinations: Personations at http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar03/regulations/exams/exams_personations.asp).