

**Philosophy 606: Studies in Twentieth-Century Philosophy**  
Winter 2008

**General information**

Time: M W 10:30 AM – 12:18 PM  
Location: 353 University Hall  
Instructor: Ben Caplan  
Office: 337F University Hall  
Office hours: T R 10:30 – 11:18 AM or by appointment  
Phone: 292.7914  
Email: caplan.16@osu.edu  
Webpage: <http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/caplan16/606.htm>

**Course description**

This is an idiosyncratic course in metaphysics from 1891 to late last night. We will address the admittedly elusive question of whether, in addition to different kinds of *beings* (e.g. sticks, stones, tables, chairs, persons), there are different kinds of *being* (e.g. existence, subsistence, concept-existence, object-existence). In addition, we will address the question of whether any entities have no kind of being whatsoever.

**Readings**

We will read work by Gottlob Frege, Alexius Meinong, and Bertrand Russell. We will also read work about Martin Heidegger and David Lewis. Many of the readings will be available electronically through Carmen. A schedule will be posted and updated on the course webpage (which is not on Carmen).

**Course requirements**

First assignment	30%
Second assignment	30%
Final assignment	40%

The first assignment will probably be a short problem set. (If not, it will be a short paper.) The second assignment will be a short paper (3-5 pages). The final

assignment will be a longer paper (5-10 pages for undergraduates, 10-15 pages for graduate students).

### **Disabilities**

Students who might need accommodations are encouraged to contact me and the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

### **Academic misconduct**

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. You are responsible for knowing what counts as academic misconduct. You might want to consult the Code of Student Conduct or the Committee on Academic Misconduct:

[http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

and

<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.