

## Philosophy 663: Advanced Metaphysics

Fall 2006

Time: MW 9:30 AM – 11:18 AM  
Location: **353 University Hall** (and not 332 Cockins Hall)  
Instructor: Ben Caplan  
Office: 337F University Hall  
Office hours: MT 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM or by appointment  
Phone: 292.7914  
Email: caplan.16@osu.edu  
Webpage: <http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/caplan16/663.htm>

**Course description** We will address three topics: modality, persistence, and material constitution. In the first part of the course, we will focus on *de re* modality and ask, for example, what (if anything) it is in virtue of which this very statue, which is actually 10 feet tall, could have been 11 feet tall. In the second part of the course, we will focus on persistence and ask, for example, what (if anything) it is in virtue of which this very statue, which exists today, also existed yesterday. In the third part of the course, we will ask, for example, whether the statue is identical to the clay that it is made of—and we will see how claims about *de re* modality and persistence affect arguments about the relation between the statue and the clay.

**Readings** Readings will be available electronically through the course webpage or non-electronically in the Philosophy Department Main Office (350 University Hall). A schedule will be posted and updated on the course webpage.

### Course requirements

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

The first assignment will be either a short paper (3-5 pages) or a short problem set. 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>.