

# PHIL 3160 Metaphysics

**Code and section:** PHIL\*3160\*01

**Term:** Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Andrew Wayne

## Method of Delivery:

In person

## Course Synopsis:

This course examines the development of our metaphysical and scientific understanding of space, time and motion from the ancient Greeks to the present day. We begin with Plato and Euclid. We then focus on the classical debate about the reality of space in the work of Descartes, Newton, Leibniz and Berkeley. Finally, we study the impact of the conventionalist and relativistic theories of Poincaré and Einstein. Space and time are of interest not only as one of the central topics in metaphysics, but also as an exemplar of how research in metaphysics is done.

## Assignments & Means of Evaluation

- Weekly reading responses
- Two midterm tests
- Essay (outline, first draft and final draft)

## Required Textbooks:

- Nick Huggett, **Space from Zeno to Einstein** (MIT Press, 1999)
- Additional readings provided through CourseLink

## Disclaimer:

*\* Please note: This is a preliminary web course outline only. The Philosophy Department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.*