

## Syllabus

Timetable Information: 39380 LECD 12:30-01:15 T TH 215 BSB  
39399 DISC 01:15-01:45 T TH 215 BSB

Office: 1401 University Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 and by appointment

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Course Website: <http://www.uic.edu/~edelberg/phil203>

Prerequisites: One course in philosophy or consent of the instructor.

Required Texts: William R. Carter, *The Elements of Metaphysics*, McGraw-Hill, 1990.

William R. Carter, editor, *The Way Things Are: Basic Readings in Metaphysics*, McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Walter Edelberg, *Crediting Others in Papers — 11 FAQ's*, online only (link from course website).

Further Reading: Peter Van Inwagen and Dean W. Zimmerman, editors, *Metaphysics: The Big Questions*, Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Jaegwon Kim and Ernest Sosa, editors, *Metaphysics: An Anthology*, Blackwell Publishers, 1999.

Course Description: An intermediate level survey of contemporary metaphysics—its questions, theories, and methods of investigation. W. R. Carter's *The Elements of Metaphysics* will help to provide an overview of each topic. For extensions, digressions, and details, we will look to Carter's anthology, *The Way Things Are*. Topics will include realism and idealism, materialism and dualism, substances and properties, parts and wholes, change, personal identity, God, and free will.

Course Requirements: *Papers*. There will be four papers on assigned topics. The first of these will be 1-2 pages in length, and will count for 5% of the course grade. Each of the remaining three papers will be 5-6 pages in length and will count for 23% of the course grade.

*Final Examination*. The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions, and will count for 26% of the course grade.

*Quizzes*. I may give short quizzes from time to time, possibly with great frequency. These will not count toward the course grade, except for students on the border between two grades. Some of the quizzes will help to inform me whether you are doing the readings on time, and with sufficient care. Other quizzes will help to inform you (and me) whether you are fully comprehending the lectures and class discussions.