COURSE DETAIL

THE NATURE OF REALITY
Country Australia
Host Institution University of Melbourne
Program(s) University of Melbourne
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 122
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE NATURE OF REALITY
UCEAP Transcript Title NATURE OF REALITY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

Our central question in this course will be the extent to which our everyday experiences are determined by the nature of the world itself versus the extent to which they're determined by the structure of our own minds. Our approach to this question will be multi-faceted, drawing on philosophical texts, films and literary works, as well as our personal experiences. In topic 1, the nature of the world, we'll discuss Realism, Idealism, and Skepticism. Is the world really as it seems intuitively to be to us (Realism) or is it just a projection of our minds (Idealism). In topic 2, the nature of the self, we'll examine (i) what changes you can undergo and still remain yourself, (ii) the extent to which your personality and mind are constructed by you vs. being given to you by nature or upbringing, and (iii) whether genuine relationships exist between you and others or whether it's mostly a projection on your part. In topic 3, the nature of time, we'll examine time. Does only the present moment exist or does reality consist of many moments of time - some past, some present, and some future? Is there really any such thing as time or is it, as Kant says, just a feature of our minds? Does contemporary physics show there's no such thing as time, or is there a way to reconcile the findings of physics with our intuitive view that time exists?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PHIL20039

Host Institution Course Title
THE NATURE OF REALITY

Host Institution Course Details
https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/PHIL20039

Host Institution Campus
Melbourne

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Philosophy
Course Last Reviewed 2024-2025

Print