

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 Campus

Melbourne

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Philosophy

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