**Metaphysics 215**

**Professor Derstine**  
**Semester Fall 2021**  
**Hybrid Class**

- Live Lecture weekly on Mondays at 3pm on Canvas/Zoom (audio available next day)  
- Live F2F class on Friday in Cook/Douglass Lecture Hall 3pm-4:20

*Standard due date for Perusall Weekly Assignments: Saturday 11.59 pm*

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_Janelle Derstine, Ph.D._  
_Philosophy Department_

**My Contact Information:** I will respond within two business days to mail sent to me via CANVAS LMS – DO NOT EMAIL MY RUTGERS ADDY (I do not check that nearly as often!!). GO TO OUR CANVAS SITE AND ON THE SIDEBAR CLICK INBOX and then use the pencil Icon to start a message to me. If for some reason you feel you must contact me via email (?!?) then my email is ceridwen@rutgers.edu.

**Office Hours:** Via Zoom, please email to set an appointment time, and provide three dates/times during which you are available.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:** computer/laptop able to run videos, zoom chats, and Canvas. See our Canvas page for a module on how to use Canvas (learning guide)

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](https://www.rutgers.edu/student-tech) page for resources available to all students.

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**Core Curriculum Learning Goals Met by this Course:** AH

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**Due to increased student interest in recorded class sessions, I will be posting audio recordings of most class meetings on our Canvas/zoom course site.**

**These recordings are for study purposes only and feature both my own intellectual property and the contributions of your fellow classmates. Please respect your fellow students’ privacy and do not share or distribute these recordings beyond our course site.**

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If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance.

If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at [https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/](https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/).

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**Arts and the Humanities [AH].**

AHo. Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of
**Current Academic Integrity Policy:**
Summary:  
http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/academic-integrity-policy/

- **Honor pledge:**
  - You will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge on every major exam or assignment as follows:
  - The Rutgers honor pledge will be included on all (major) assessments for you to sign: *On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).*

Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to):

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work
- Failure to cite sources correctly
- Fabrication
- Using another person’s ideas or words without attribution—re-using a previous assignment
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Sabotaging another student’s work

Resources for Students:
https://nbprovost.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-students

IF you are still unsure, please contact me during office hours.

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. You should be familiar with the university policy on academic integrity. Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy.

**DID YOU KNOW...** Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions, and/or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor’s permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating.

**DID YOU KNOW...** *When you copy or fail to cite your resources, you are misappropriating intellectual property?*

Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. This includes not just books and articles, but the syllabi, lectures, lecture slides, recorded lectures, course materials, presentations, homework problems, exams, and other materials used in this course, in either printed or electronic form.

Providing course materials to commercial suppliers such as CourseHero, Chegg, etc. and/or publicly distributing or displaying course materials, or helping others to do so, is a violation of academic integrity.

Authors hold copyrights of their works, which are
protected by U.S. statutes. Copying this work or posting it online without the permission of the author may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and for the author's intellectual property rights is an important value that members of the university community take seriously.

| Other Resources | Learning Centers: [https://rlc.rutgers.edu/](https://rlc.rutgers.edu/)  
Academic Advising for SAS students: [https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/advising/advising](https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/advising/advising)  
Student Success resources: [https://success.rutgers.edu/](https://success.rutgers.edu/)  
Online Learning Tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT, Searchpath, and RefWorks: [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials) |
|---|---|
| Required Books: Do not buy from anyone except – Perusall (first day of class) or Code provided by BN Bookstore (RU Bookstore) | We will use the Perusall software app to discuss readings; you will purchase the book(s) from the app on our Canvas site, or you can purchase the code for it from the Rutgers bookstore.  
**DO NOT BUY THE BOOK THROUGH ANY OTHER VENUE or you will be needing to return it...**  
1. *A very short introduction to Metaphysics*  
   ISBN  
2. *Riddles of Existence* by Sider and Conee  
   ISBN |
| Self-Report your Absence: [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) | If you will be absent for an extended period of time (over one week) then you will need to get a note from the Dean of Students. [http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/](http://deanofstudents.rutgers.edu/) |
| Students who have been told to quarantine, or are experiencing symptoms of any transmittable disease, should remain at home and not attend in-person class meetings. | Use the above link to report your absence, do NOT email me about it |
It is your responsibility to obtain the notes/anything missed from your fellow students. Do not email me for the notes. Find a student to buddy up with or put out a request in the Chat room or discussion board.

**Mask Requirement**

Basically:

1. **Masks must be worn during class meetings; any student not wearing a mask will be asked to leave.**

2. **Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app**

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, masks must be worn by all persons on campus when in the presence of others (within six feet) and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.).

Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth:


**Course Structure, Requirements, Policies**

- How final semester grades will be determined. See Below Assessment
- Any policies on missed or late assignments and make-up exams.
- Attendance on Fridays is essential. Unless you are sick, I expect you to be there. If you are not, there will be make up work required
- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined below

**Final Grade is determined by:**

Student Discussion Leader: 15%
Score from Perusall: 35% (combined; annotating 10 assignments (weekly))
2 Short Papers 30%
Final Exam 20%

**Disability Services**

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office

University attendance and religious holiday policies are at [http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1431.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1431.html) (an interfaith calendar can be found at [https://www.interfaith-calendar.org/](https://www.interfaith-calendar.org/))

will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form).

Full disability policies and procedures are at [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Daily or weekly assignments, reading, etc.**
Weekly annotation assignments due Saturdays at 11.59 pm (on Perusall, BUT only access through Canvas Assignments)

**Final Exam/Paper Date and Time**
Scheduled by University -→

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**Student-Wellness Services**

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**
(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/](http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/)
CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students’ efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.


**Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**
(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.