

Junior Seminar in Philosophy Spring 2015.

The focus of the seminar will be on how developments in physics over the last 100 years or so bear on issues in metaphysics and epistemology. We will be especially interested in consequences for views about the nature of matter, space and time, laws, and cosmology. For example, we will discuss what Einstein's theories of relativity imply about the metaphysics of space and time and what quantum mechanics says about fundamental ontology. We also discuss implications from physics about what we can know about the past and future of the universe. The seminar won't presuppose a knowledge of physics (although such knowledge would be useful) but participants must be willing to expend some effort learning about relevant physics at a non-technical (e.g. *Scientific American*) level.

The primary text for the seminar will be *From Eternity to Here* by Sean Carroll

Work for the seminar consists in i) preparing questions each week on the readings ii) class participation iii) a 10-15 page seminar paper on one of the issues we discuss.