

NAÏVE METAPHYSICS

PHIL490 (AO1)

Metaphysics is traditionally conceived as "the study of ultimate reality", where "reality" contrasts with "appearance" and "ultimate" implies a foundation upon which all appearances rest. The traditional conception explains the prominence in the recent literature of "foundational metaphysics" and its fixation on the fundamental. And yet reality does not present itself to us via the fundamental, but rather via the naïve appearances of ordinary objects, artifacts, social phenomena, and the like. Because foundational metaphysics does not provide a "naïve metaphysics" of these appearances, it risks being irrelevant to what interests us most. This seminar will explore these large-scale issues about metaphysics in general by focusing on the "naïve metaphysics" of social phenomena and artifacts in particular.

PREREQUISITES PHIL203 + 3 units of philosophy, or permission.

PLACE/TIME CLE B315,

