**DEFINITION AND ESSENCE**

Many of philosophy’s big questions ask for the definition or essence of something (justice, goodness, knowledge, truth, the self, cause). This seminar focuses on what definition and essence are.

**PREREQUISITES**  PHIL 352, or permission.

**PLACE/TIME**  CLE B315, Mon 3:30pm-6:20pm

**INSTRUCTOR**  Dr Mike Raven (mike@mikeraven.net  mikeraven.net)

**OFFICE HOURS**  • CLE B323 Mon/Thu 11:30am–12:30pm, or appointment.

**WEBSITE**  coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=51693

The website’s content (including this syllabus) is “live” and will be updated. Consult the website for the most up to date, official course information.

**TEXTS**  Available digitally (use the links below).

**EVALUATION**

**GRADES**  The grade you earn is determined by the quality of your work in this course. The university’s scale is used: A+ >90 A 89–85 A– 84–80 B+ 79–77 B 76–73 B– 72–70 C+ 69–65 C 64–60 D 59–50 F <50

**WORK**

- **Term paper (70%)**: Due (tentative): Monday April 8
  - Engagement with the course, including: contributions to class and online forum, communication with the instructor, and class presentations/discussion leading.

**RUBRIC**  Work is evaluated for craftsmanship, in accordance with the guidelines in:

- mikeraven.net/teaching/[Raven] Philosophy Rubric.pdf

**GRACE POINTS**  A grace point can be used to delay a due date by 1 day. Each student begins with 5 grace points. Points can be used in any combination at the students’ discretion (no justification needed). But points cannot be reused, traded, or earned.

  - To use, write at the beginning of your paper 'Using # grace points' (replace # with the number of grace points). This is the only way to use grace points.

**LATENESS**  Unexcused late work is penalized 5% per day late and is not entitled to feedback.

**POLICIES**

**CONDUCT**  Enrolling binds you to a social contract with your instructor and classmates:

  - **Be prepared.** Read the syllabus. Do the reading before class. Attend class.
  - **Be respectful.** In class, don’t bully or distract. In work, follow RUBRIC §3.4.
  - **Be professional.** Check sources first (don’t expect replies to questions answered by the syllabus). Follow etiquette. Allow time for replies.

**ACCESSIBILITY**  Arrange accommodations with CAL. Other accommodation requests (e.g. extra credit, extensions, alternate/make-up work) will not be considered, except under extraordinary circumstances (instructor’s discretion) and when both the request and suitable documentation are received no more than 3 days after the due date.

**PRIVACY**  Course documents are the instructor’s intellectual property. Do not distribute. Recordings permitted only with instructor’s prior consent. Do not distribute.

**GUESTS**  Guests permitted only with instructor’s prior consent.

**INTEGRITY**  Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. Ignorance is no excuse. Read:

- web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html
# Schedule

This schedule is tentative: see website for updates and updated links to readings. Come to each class (including the first on January 7) having read all the assigned readings. Be prepared to discuss the readings.

**JAN 7**
- Sullivan, “Are There Essential Properties? No”
- McDaniel and Steward, “Are There Essential Properties? Yes”

**14**
- Kripke, Naming and Necessity (selections)
- Lewis, On the Plurality of Worlds (selections)

**21**
- Fine, “Essence and Modality”
- Fine, “Senses of Essence”

**28**
- Almog, “Nature Without Essence”

**FEB 4**
- Gupta, “Definitions”
- Frege, The Foundations of Arithmetic (selections)
- Quine, “Two Dogmas of Analyticity”

**11**
- Rosen, “Metaphysical Dependence: Grounding and Reduction”
- Rosen, “Real Definition”

**25**
- Fine, “Identity Criteria and Ground”
- Fine, “Unified Foundations for Essence and Ground”

**MAR 4**
- Correia and Skiles, “Grounding, Essence, and Identity”
- Correia, “Real Definitions”
- Rayo, “Essence Without Fundamentality”

**11**
- Glazier, “Essentialist Explanation”
- Raven, “Explaining Essences”

**18**
- Fine, “Necessity and Non-existence”
- Raven, “Is Logic Out of this World?”

**25**
- Sveinsdóttir, “Essentiality Conferred”
- Raven, “A Puzzle for Constructed Essences”

**APR #?**
- Term Paper Workshop

(This class will need to be rescheduled to some other date.)