

Time in Contemporary Metaphysics and Philosophy of Physics

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SoSe 2022

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Office Hours: by appointment

Preparatory Meeting: 28.04.2022, 12:00; GA 8/34
Block course: 19-22.9.2022, 9:00–17:00; GA 03/46

Course Description and Goal

The aim of this course is to familiarize you with central issues in contemporary debates about time. The course has three overarching topics: the direction of time, the passage of time, and time travel. After successful completion of the course, you will be able to understand and critically discuss major approaches to time in contemporary metaphysics and philosophy of physics.

Access to Course Material and Communication

PDFs will be provided via moodle as far as copyright restrictions permit. Please sign up for the course on moodle.

Participation, 'Studienleistung', and Exam

Active **participation** is required from all who want to take part in the course. This includes presence at all sessions as well as thorough reading of the assigned literature. Presence at all sessions is not a formal requirement but consistent participation is essential for your personal learning experience since the later sessions build on contents of the preceding sessions.

In order to pass the '**unbenotete Studienleistung**', you need to prepare a 15-20 minute power-point based presentation to be given during the block course. In addition, you will have to prepare a 4-5-page summary of your presentation which is to be submitted by September 5, 2022. Please be ready to sign up for the topics for the presentation during the preparatory meeting on April 28, 2022.

Graded exams (benotete Studienleistung) in this course will be essays ('**Hausarbeit**'). You will be asked to suggest a topic for your essay and to develop a sufficiently specific question to be addressed in the essay (20 pages). Essays will have to be written in English. As a starting point for developing a research question you can consult the course material. But you are expected to incorporate and discuss material that goes well beyond the course material. Please consult the essay guidelines for requirements on formatting etc. (https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/philosophy/mam/fachschaft/wissenschaftliches_arbeiten_im_philosophiestudium.pdf)

Deadlines:

- 30.09.2022: sign up for the essay. Please submit:
 - a preliminary title,
 - a sufficiently specified research question,
 - a structure for the essay with informative section titles,
 - and preliminary references.
- 31.12.2022: submit the essay.

Covid

The up-to-date rules for seminars that take place in person can be found here: <https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/en/current-information-about-corona>.

Readings

The Direction of Time

- Albert (2000): Time and Chance
(not on moodle; full text available as pdf via the RUB library)
 - Chapter 1: Time-Reversal Invariance
 - Chapter 2: Thermodynamics
 - Chapter 3: Statistical Mechanics
 - Chapter 4: The Reversibility Objections and the Past-Hypothesis

The Passage of Time and Temporal Experience

- McTaggart (1908): The Unreality of Time
- Price (1996): Time's Arrow and Archimedes' Point
 - Chapter 1: The View From Nowhen: Section: The stock philosophical debates about time (4 pages).
- and** Price (2011): The Flow of Time
- Maudlin (2007): The Metaphysics Within Physics.
 - Chapter 4: On the Passing of Time
- Ismael (2011): Temporal Experience
- Paul (2010): Temporal Experience

Time Travel

- Lewis (1975): Paradoxes of Time Travel
- Dainton (2010): Time and Space
 - Chapter 8: Time Travel