

PHL 552: Causation	Mondays 6-8:40pm
Instructor: Alyssa Ney	Email: aney@mail.rochester.edu
Office: Lattimore 523	Phone: x58109
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm, Wednesdays 1 – 2 pm, and by appointment.	

Texts

The assigned books for this course are available at the bookstore. They are:

J.L. Mackie, *The Cement of the Universe*, Oxford University Press, 1980.
Ernest Sosa and Michael Tooley eds., *Causation*, Oxford University Press, 1993.

Other readings are available via the library's electronic reserve, and as indicated below, elsewhere on the web.

Grading

Assessment in this course will be on the basis of class participation, short papers, and a final paper. Students should come to class having done the reading by the assigned date, so as to make possible an informed common discussion. Please bring your copies of the assigned readings to class.

I. Weekly Papers

Students will be required to write eight 1-2 page weeklies sent electronically Monday by noon. These are to be on the topic of the reading for that evening's seminar. These will not be accepted late.

II. Term Paper

A term paper is required. It should be roughly 12-15 pages. These papers can cover any topic discussed in class and should reflect some outside reading. Due May 8th to me (hard copy please). There is no penalty for submitting the term paper early.

Topics and Assigned Readings

'M' indicates the selection is from Mackie's *Cement of the Universe*.
'S/T' indicates the selection can be found in the Sosa and Tooley volume.
'ER' indicates the selection is available on the library's electronic reserve.

January 23

Hume

David Hume, *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, Sections IV-VII. (ER)

David Hume, Abstract of *A Treatise on Human Nature* (ER)

Thomas Beauchamp and Alexander Rosenberg, “Hume’s Two Theories of Causation” (ER)

February 6

Hume

J.L. Mackie, Chapter 1: Hume’s Account of Causation (M)

Beauchamp and Rosenberg, “Causal and Inductive Scepticism” (ER)

February 13

Reid

Thomas Reid, *Essays on the Active Powers of Man*, selections (ER)

Timothy O’Connor, “The Agent as Cause: Reid, Taylor, and Chisholm” (ER)

February 20

Kant

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Second Analogy (ER)

Mackie, Chapter 4: Kant and Transcendentalism (M)

Paul Guyer, “The Second Analogy: Causation” (ER)

February 27

Mackie

Mackie, Chapter 3: Causal Regularities (M)

Mackie, Chapter 8: The Necessity of Causes (M)

Michael Strevens, “Mackie Remastered” at:

<http://www.strevens.org/research/expln/macrules/MacRules.pdf>

March 6

Counterfactual Theories: Introduction

Mackie, Chapter 2: The Concept of Causation – Conditional Analyses (M)

David Lewis, “Causation” (with Postscripts) (S/T)

March 20

Preemption worries with Counterfactual approaches

Ned Hall and Laurie Paul, “Causation and Preemption”, available at:

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~lapaul/papers/causation-preemption.pdf>

Stephen Yablo, “Advertisement for a Sketch of an Outline of a Prototheory of Causation” (ER)

March 27

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David Lewis, “Causation as Influence” (ER)

Christopher Hitchcock, "The Intransitivity of Causation Revealed in Equations and Graphs"

April 3

Production and Probability

Wesley Salmon, "Causality: Production and Propagation" (S/T)

Phil Dowe, *Physical Causation*, Chapters 2-3 (ER)

April 10

Thick Causation

Phil Dowe, *Physical Causation*, Chapters 4-7

April 17

Realism

Michael Tooley, "Causation: Reductionism versus Realism" (S/T)

David Armstrong, "Going Through the Open Door Again" (ER)

April 24

Realism

Michael Tooley, *Causation*, Chapter 8 (ER)