Roughly, metaphysics is the philosophical study of the more general and fundamental features of reality, and of how they relate to the rest of reality. Roughly, philosophy of mind is the philosophical study of the nature of mind, and of how it relates to the rest of reality. Philosophy of mind can thus be seen as an instance, or sub-study of metaphysics. This class is a partial introduction to some central contemporary discussions in these two arts.

Required readings: all original articles are available online, but you need to be logged on through the UiO system. A few book excerpts/chapters will be made available through Fronter.

Schedule (subject to change):

1. Introduction. Important terminology
   a. Lecture notes (available in fronter)
2. Identity. Objects
3. Modality. Essence
   a. Kit Fine (1994), ‘Essence and Modality’ Philosophical Perspectives, 8: pp.1-16
   b. Sonia Roca-Royes (2011) ‘Essential Properties and Individual Essences’ Philosophy Compass 6/1, pp. 65-77
4. Persistence. Survival
5. Space. Time. Spacetime
   a. Isaac Newton (1687) The Principia (excerpts)
6. Free will. Determinism
8. Physicalism
   a. W.V.O. Quine (1953) ‘On What There Is’ (available in fronter)

9. Dualism
   a. Rene Descartes (1641) Meditations (excerpts)
   b. Saul Kripke (1972) Naming and Necessity (excerpts)

10. The Identity Theory
    b. Donald Davidson (1970) ‘Mental Events’ (available in fronter)

11. Functionalism. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
    a. Hilary Putnam (1967) ‘The Nature of Mental States’ (available in fronter)

12. Qualia

13. Consciousness in nature

14. Panpsychism

Suggested supplementary textbooks:

Note: the lectures will be given in Norwegian, but all written material will be in English.