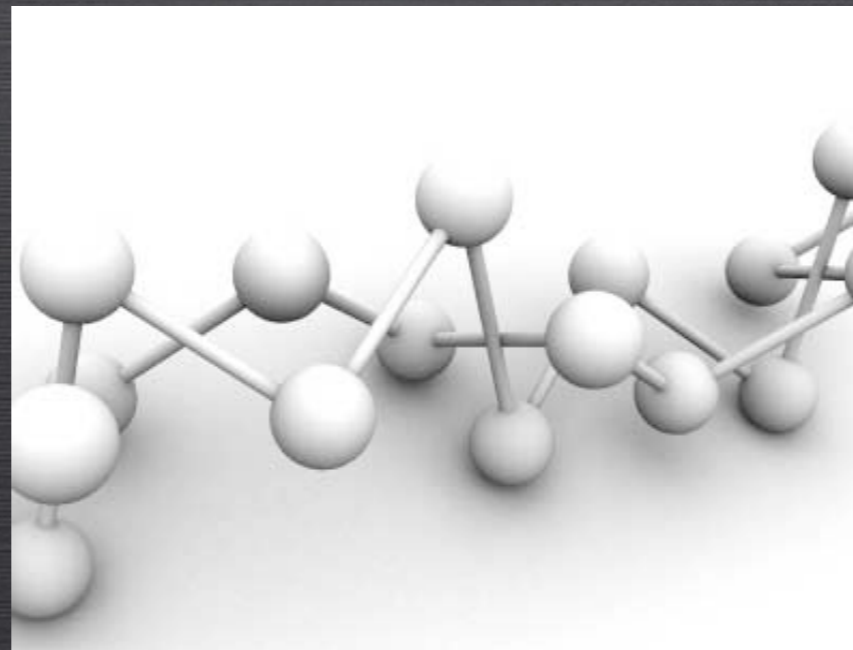


# INTRODUCTION TO METAPHYSICS: REALITY & BEING

HZT4U1 - MR. A. WITTMANN - UNIT 5 – LECTURE 1

“THERE EXISTS NO  
KIND OF SPIRITUAL  
SUBSTANCE OR  
ENTITY OF A  
DIFFERENT NATURE  
FROM THAT OF  
WHICH MATTER IS  
COMPOSED.”

-HOBBS



“ALL WORLDLY  
THINGS HAVE NO  
SUBSTANCE  
WITHOUT A MIND,  
AND AS LONG AS  
THEY ARE NOT  
ACTUALLY  
PERCEIVED HAVE  
NO EXISTENCE.”

-BERKELEY

# THE QUESTION OF REALITY

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- In everyday life we determine what experiences are real and what are not (i.e. dreams, fiction).
- Many philosophies question whether the things we usually consider, or assume, to be real are indeed truly real.
  - Is there a deeper reality behind the everyday world?
  - Is the everyday world only a false picture in our minds, of ultimate reality?
  - Does anything exist independently of our thoughts and perceptions?

# WHAT IS REALITY?

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- For many, reality consists of physical objects, but excludes non-physical entities.
  - But, how real are emotions, spirits, economic forces, subatomic particles, numbers, laws, or God?
- For others (i.e. Robert Nozick), things which are important, significant, make a difference, matter, have value, have meaning, are real.

# WHAT IS METAPHYSICS?

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- Greek “after (the book called about) nature”.
- Branch of philosophy that studies the nature of reality.
- Study of basic categories and structures of what exists.
- An inquiry into the first principles of being.
- An attempt to discover the most pervasive characteristics that underlie all our knowledge and reasoning concerning existence.

# WHAT IS METAPHYSICS?

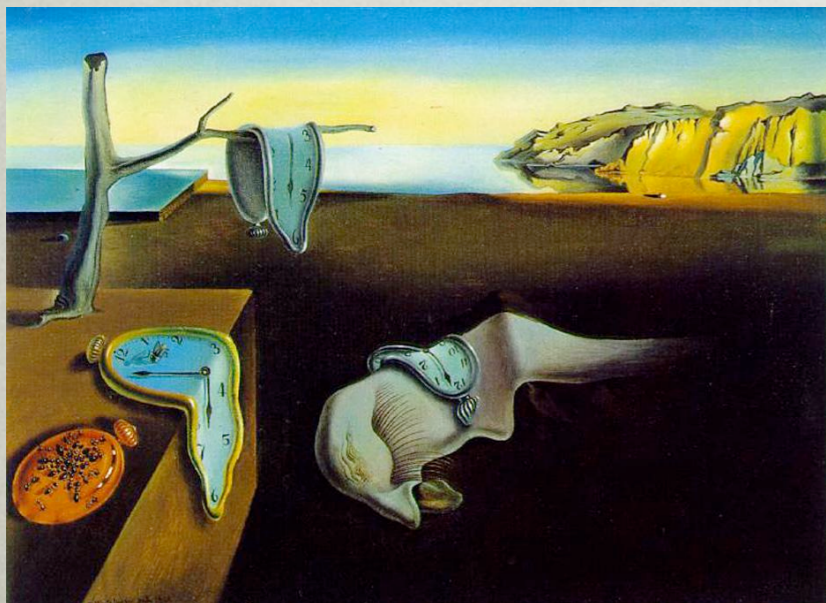
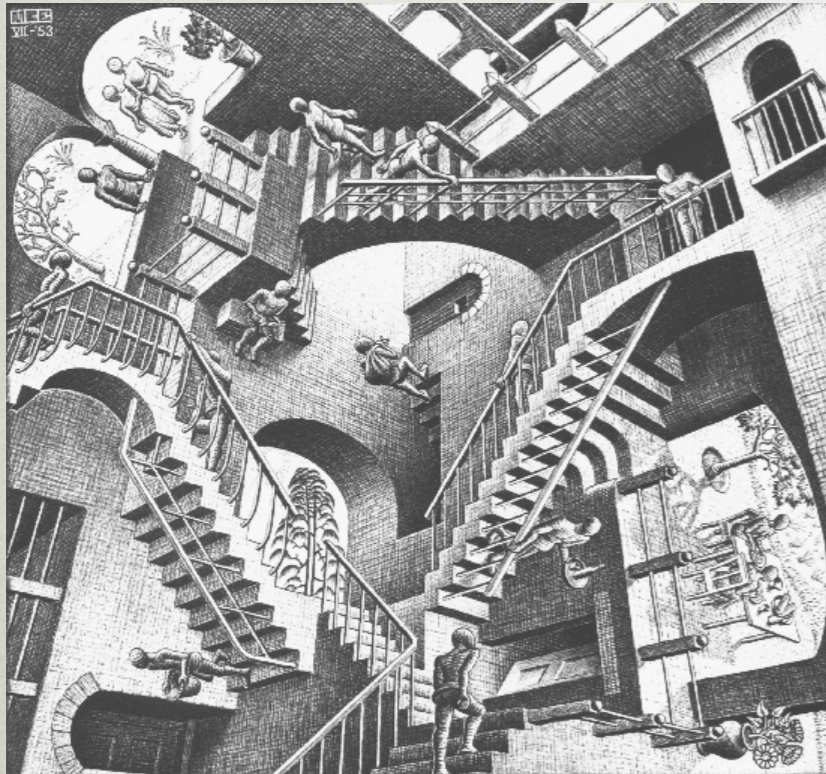
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- Metaphysics is the oldest school of philosophy.
- Non-empirical and non-scientific subjects or topics.
- Sometimes a.k.a. **ontology**, which is actually a subdivision of metaphysical theory of the nature of being and existence.
- Metaphysics is divided into 2 major areas of study; **Reality and Being (unit 5), God and Religion (unit 6)**

# TRADITIONAL METAPHYSICAL TOPICS

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- Structure and development of reality viewed in its totality.
- Nature of time and space.
- Meaning and nature of being
- Nature of the mind, self, soul and consciousness.
- Existence of God.
- Origin and destiny of the universe.

# A DEFINITION OF REALITY

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- What exists on its own, independently of what anyone thinks, understands, feels, or perceives.
- We try to portray this independent reality accurately in our perceptions and thoughts.
- But reality is distinct from mere appearance and from the imaginary and the fictitious (i.e. perception illusions, hallucinations, dreams, works of fiction)

# METAPHYSICAL THEORIES

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## *Theories:*

1. **Materialism** (Thomas Hobbes)
2. **Idealism** (George Berkeley)
3. **Pragmatism** (Dewey, James, and Pierce)

## *Types of Realities:*

1. Ordinary reality
2. Ultimate reality
3. Alternative realities

# WORLD CUP PHILOSOPHY



# PHILOSOPHER'S SONG



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**THE END**