

TIME AND MEANING

Time & Place Philosophy 3rd floor seminar room, 2-4.30 PM

Texts *Arcadia*, Tom Stoppard, Faber and Faber, 1993.

- *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Walter M. Miller Jr., Eos, 2006.
- *Jealousy*, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Grove, 1965.
- *The Man in the High Castle*, Phillip K. Dick, Vintage, 1992.
- *The Time Machine*, H. G. Wells, Dover, 1995.

All other readings will be distributed in class

Content The class will explore the nature of time and its meaning for human beings. Eternity, change and decay, recurrence, and time travel are our organizing topics; within each, we will use physics, philosophy, history, and literature to better understand how time works and how it molds our understanding of ourselves and the significance of our lives. No prior understanding of physics or philosophy is assumed. Some specific topics: temporally scrambled narrative in modern fiction, the nature of entropy, conceptions of historical time, the end of the universe, the physics and science fiction of time travel.

Evaluation Your total grade will be made up of:

Participation	25%
First paper (due Oct 11)	25%
Second paper (due Nov 8)	25%
Third paper (due Dec 13)	25%

- Papers should be about five pages long.
- The participation component includes credit for some short, ungraded exercises.

Strevens Office hours are Tue 2.30-3.30, after class, and by appointment.

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