PHIL 1670: TIME
Spring, 2010

Professor: Dr. Douglas Kutach
Department of Philosophy
Box 1918
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

Course Hours: 10:30 AM - 11:50 PM Tuesday and Thursday in Wilson Hall 302.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday after class (12:10 PM to 1:10 PM) in Gerard House 300. If you cannot come then, or if the wait is long, please call or talk to me about some other meeting time.

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Course Texts: *Time and Space*, by Barry Dainton
*The Labyrinth of Time*, by Michael Lockwood
A set of course readings on electronic reserve.

**Course Description**

Conceptions of time play critical roles in our understanding of our origin, the creation of the universe, our ultimate fate, and our sense of purpose and progress. The two most important questions we will be discussing are, “Does time flow?” and “What is the difference between past and future?”

In the first half of the course, we will discuss the standard literature in the philosophy of time, covering notions of change and flow, and then see how classical and relativistic physics bears on the passage of time by way of relativity of simultaneity and time travel. Finally, we will investigate the second law of thermodynamics to see what relationship it has to temporal asymmetries such as the asymmetry of influence, the causal asymmetry, the asymmetry of knowledge.

**Tasks and Evaluations**

Your grade for the course will be determined by four papers each worth 18% of your final grade, a comprehensive final exam worth 28% of your final grade. The topics of the papers will be assigned to you based on the course readings.