

**Metaphysics** is a branch of [philosophy](#) exploring the fundamental nature of [reality](#) . <sup>[1]</sup>

While various views and methods have been called 'metaphysics' across history, this article approaches metaphysics first from the perspective of contemporary analytical philosophy, and then explores metaphysics in other traditions. In this vein, metaphysics seeks to answer two basic questions: <sup>[2]</sup>

1. Ultimately, what is *there*?
2. What is *it like*?

Topics of metaphysical investigation include [existence](#) , [objects](#) and their [properties](#) , [space](#)  
[and](#)  
[time](#)  
,  
[cause and effect](#)  
, and  
[possibility](#)  
. A central branch of metaphysics is  
[ontology](#)  
, the investigation into the basic  
[categories of being](#)  
and how they relate to one another.

There are two broad conceptions about what &quot;world&quot; is studied by metaphysics. The strong, classical view assumes that the objects studied by metaphysics exist independently of any observer, so that the subject is the most fundamental of all sciences. The weaker, more modern view assumes that the objects studied by metaphysics exist inside the mind of an observer, so the subject becomes a form of [introspection](#) and [conceptual analysis](#) . Some philosophers, notably [Kant](#)  
, discuss both of these &quot;worlds&quot; and what can be inferred about each one.

Some philosophers and scientists, such as the [logical positivists](#) , reject the entire subject of metaphysics as meaningless, while others disagree and think that it is legitimate.

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