

Metaphysics – 2011-2012 Fall

Week 1

Introduction (2 hours, Tuesday, 27 September)

Lecture on existence (1 hour, Thursday, 29 September)

Week 2

Existence & ontological commitment.

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 4 October):

W.V.O. Quine (1948) "On what there is," *Review of Metaphysics*.
David Lewis (1990) "Noneism or Allism?" *Mind* 99 (393):23-31.

Lecture on nonbeing (1 hour, Thursday, 6 October)

Week 3

Nonbeing & Absence

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 11 October):

C. B. Martin (1996) "How It Is: Entities, Absences and Voids," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 74 (1): 57 - 65.
Roberto Casati & Achille C. Varzi (2004) "Counting the Holes," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 82 (1):23-27.
István Aranyosi (2010) "The Nature of Shadows, From Yale to Bilkent," *Philosophy* 85 (2):219-223.

Lecture on Realism vs. Nominalism about universals (1 hour, Thursday, 13 October)

Week 4

Universals I: Realism versus Nominalism

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 18 October):

David M. Armstrong, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 from *Universals and Scientific Realism* (Volume I: Nominalism and Realism).

Lecture on Platonism vs. Immanent Realism (Thursday, 20 October)

Week 5

Universals II: Platonism versus Immanent Realism

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 25 October):

David M. Armstrong, chapters 6, 7 from *Universals and Scientific Realism* (Volume I: Nominalism and Realism).
Douglas Ehring (2002) "Spatial Relations between Universals", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 80(1): 17-23.

Lecture on bare particulars vs. the bundle theory (1 hour, 27 October)

Week 6

Particulars I: Bare particulars versus Bundle Theory

I will be in Singapore this whole week. You will work at home on:

Robert Merrihew Adams (1979) "Primitive Thisness and Primitive Identity," *Journal of Philosophy* 76 (1):5-26.

Arda Denkel (2000) "The Refutation of Substrata," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 61 (2):431-439.

Sun Demirli (2010) "Indiscernibility and Bundles in a Structure," *Philosophical Studies* 151: 1-18.

Week 7 (7-13 November, Bayram)

Week 8

Particulars II: Tropes and Events

Seminar on tropes + lecture on events (2 hours, Tuesday, 15 November):

Aristotle, selections from *Categories*.

Keith Campbell (1981) "The metaphysics of abstract particulars," in P. French et al. (eds.) *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 6, 477-88.

Review for midterm exam (1 hour, Thursday, 17 November)

Week 9

Midterm Exam (open book) – 2 hours, Tuesday, 22 November

Lecture on persistence (1 hour, 24 November)

Week 10

Identity & Persistence, Personal identity

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 29 November):

David Lewis (2002) "Tensing the Copula," *Mind* 111 (441).

Theodore Sider (1996) "All the Worlds a Stage," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 74 (3):433-453.

Derek Parfit (1971) "Personal Identity," *Philosophical Review* 80 (January):3-27.

David B. Hershenov (2005) "Do Dead Bodies Pose a Problem for Biological Approaches to Personal Identity?" *Mind* 114 (453):31-59.

Lecture on God (1 hour, Thursday, 1 December)

Week 11

God

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 6 December):

Lewis, D. (1970) "Anselm and Actuality," *Nous*, 4: 175-88. (will be sent by email)

William Lane Craig (2001) "Prof. Grünbaum on the *Normalcy of Nothingness* in the Leibnizian and Kalam Cosmological Arguments," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 52(2): 371-386 (will be sent by email)

Lecture on time and fate (1 hour, Thursday, 8 December)

Week 12

Time & Fate

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 13 December):

Dean W. Zimmerman (2005) "Temporary intrinsics and presentism," In P. Van Inwagen and D. Zimmerman (eds.) *Metaphysics: the big questions*. Blackwell.

Richard Taylor (1962) "Fatalism," *Philosophical Review* 71 (1):56-66.

Lecture on causation (1 hour, 15 December)

Week 13

Causation

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 20 December):

Michael McDermott (1995) "Redundant Causation," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 46 (4):523-544.

Jonathan Schaffer (2000) "Trumping preemption," *Journal of Philosophy*, 97 (4): 165-181.

Lecture on possible worlds (1 hour, Thursday, 22 December)

Week 14

Possible worlds and possible objects

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, 27 December):

Saul Kripke, Selections from *Naming and Necessity*

David K. Lewis (1968) "Counterpart Theory and Quantified Modal Logic," *Journal of Philosophy* 65 (5):113-126.

Lecture on mind and body (1 hour, 29 December)

Week 15

Mind and Body

Seminar (2 hours, Tuesday, January 3):

David J. Chalmers (2003) "Consciousness and its Place in Nature," In Stephen P. Stich & Ted A. Warfield (eds.), *Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*. Blackwell.

István Aranyosi (2011) "A New Argument for Mind-Brain Identity," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 62(3): 489-517.

Review of the course, feedback from you, discussion of essay topics, etc. (1 hour, Thursday, 5 January)