

Metaphysics Reading list.

Reading list for: Metaphysics, MA course, Department of Philosophy, University of Birmingham. 2018-2019.

Course leader: Henry Taylor

Important note: The reading list is arranged by seminar, which will take place weekly. Each week will have at least one compulsory reading. Some weeks will have more than one compulsory reading. The compulsory readings for each week are marked in **bold**. Other especially important readings are marked with a '*’.

Textbook:

Beebe, H. and Dodd, J. 2007. *Reading Metaphysics*. (Blackwell)
I strongly recommend that you obtain a copy of the Beebe and Dodd book.

Anthology:

Kim, J., Korman, D. and Sosa, E. 2011. *Metaphysics: An Anthology. (Second Edition)*. (Wiley Blackwell).

This book will also be very useful:

Lowe, E. J. 2002. *A survey of metaphysics*. (OUP).

PART I: PERSONAL IDENTITY

Seminar 1: psychological continuity

- **Parfit, D. 1971. Personal Identity. *The Philosophical Review*. 80 (1): 3-27. This paper is reprinted in Beebe and Dodd, *Reading Metaphysics*, and you should also read their commentary on the article (pages 9-36).**
- Marya Schechtman 'Personhood and Personal Identity' In Beebe and Dodd, *Reading Metaphysics*.
- *Mackie, J. L. 1976. *Problems from Locke*. (OUP) Chapter 6
- Lowe, E. J. 1995 *The Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Locke on Human Understanding*. (Routledge) Ch. 5.

Seminar 2: Animalism

- **Olson, E. 2003. 'An argument for animalism.' Reprinted in Kim, Korman and Sosa (eds.). 2011. *Metaphysics: an anthology*. This paper is also available online: <http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/734/1/olsonet5.pdf>**
- *Shoemaker, S. 'review of Eric Olson *The Human Animal*' *Nous*. 33:3. 496-504.
- Blatti, S. 2012. 'A new argument for animalism' *Analysis* 75: 685-690
- Olson, E. 2004. 'Animalism and the corpse problem' *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 82: 265-274
- Olson, E. 2007. *What are we? A study in personal ontology*. OUP.

Seminar 3: Animalism and Constitutionalism

- Olson, E. 1997. 'Was I ever a foetus?' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 57: 95-110
- Baker, L.R. 1999. 'What am I?' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 59: 151-159
- Shoemaker, S. 1999. 'Self, Body and Coincidence' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*. 73: 287-306.

PART II: ONTOLOGY.

General books for the ontology part:

- *Armstrong, D. 1989. *Universals: an opinionated introduction* (CUP).
- *Armstrong, D. 1997. *A World of States of Affairs* (CUP).

Seminar 4: Ostrich nominalism and mirage realism

- Devitt, M. 1980 'Ostrich Nominalism' or 'Mirage Realism?' *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. 61: 433-439. Reprinted in Beebe and Dodd, *Reading Metaphysics*. You should also read Beebe and Dodd's commentary on the article.
- Armstrong, D. 1980 Against 'Ostrich Nominalism: a reply to Michael Devitt' *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. 61: 440-449. In Beebe and Dodd *Reading Metaphysics*. You should also read Beebe and Dodd's commentary on the article.
- Armstrong, D. 1989. *Universals: an opinionated introduction*. Ch. 1
- Armstrong, D. 1997. *A World of States of Affairs* (CUP). Chs 3-4.
- Lowe, E. J. 2002. *A Survey of Metaphysics*. (OUP) ch.19.
- Quine, W. 'On what there is' Review of *Metaphysics*, 2 (1948): 21-28.

Seminar 5: The concrete and the abstract

- *Lowe, E. J. 2002. *A Survey of Metaphysics*. (OUP) Ch. 20.
- Armstrong, D: *Nominalism and Realism (Universals and Scientific Realism, Vol.1)* (CUP) ch. 7.
- Heil, J. 2003. *From an Ontological Point of View* (OUP): ch.12.*
- Armstrong, D. *Universals: An opinionated introduction*. Pp.76-82.
- Moreland, J. P. 2001 *Universals*. (Acumen).

Seminar 6: Particulars and Universals

- Armstrong, D. 1997. *A World of States of Affairs*. Ch. 8.
- Armstrong, D. *Universals: an opinionated introduction*. Ch. 4.
- Black, M. 1952. The Identity of Indiscernibles. *Mind*. 61: 153-164.
- Curtis, B. 2014. 'The rumble in the bundle' *Nous*. 48: 298-313.*
- O'Leary-Hawthorne, J. 1997. 'The Bundle Theory of Substance and the Identity of Indiscernibles' *Analysis*. 55: 191-196.
- Valicella, W. 1997. 'Bundles and Indiscernibles: a reply to O'Leary-Hawthorne.' *Analysis*. 57: 91-94.

On bare particulars (seminar 6):

- Armstrong, D. 1997. *A World of States of Affairs*. chapters 7-8
- Bailey, A. 2012. 'No bare particulars' *Philosophical Studies*. 158: 31-41
- Stephen Mumford. 2007. *David Armstrong*. Acumen Ch.6.
- *Sider, Ted. 2006. 'Bare particulars.' *Philosophical Perspectives*. 20: 387-397.
- LOUX, Michael, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*. 3rd ed. (London: Routledge, 2006), ch. 3 'Concrete particulars I: substrata, bundles, and substances'. Also available online at: <http://lib.myilibrary.com/?id=54342>.

Seminar 7: Tropes and Modes

- Heil, J. 2003. *From an Ontological Point of View*. (Oxford: OUP). Chapters 12-14
- Campbell, K. The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars. *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 6: 477-488. Also Available in the Kim, Korman and Sosa Anthology.
- Armstrong, D. *Universals: an opinionated introduction*. Chapters 6 and 7.
- Armstrong, D. *A World of States of Affairs*. Chs. 3-4.
- Campbell, K. *Abstract Particulars*. (1990) Basil Blackwell
- Ehring, D. 2011 *Tropes*. OUP
- Heil, J. 2003 *From an Ontological Point of View*: chapters 12-14
- Simons, P. 1994. 'Particulars in particular clothing: three trope bundle theories of substance.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 54: 553-575.
- Lowe, E. J. 1998. *The Possibility of Metaphysics*. (OUP)
- Lowe, E.J. 2006. *The Four Category Ontology*. (OUP).

PART III: MODALITY

General Books for the Modality Part:

- Melia, J. 2003. *Modality*. New York: Routledge
- Divers, J. 2002. *Possible Worlds*. New York: Routledge
- Lewis, D. 1986. *On the Plurality of Worlds*. Blackwell.

Seminar 8: modal realism

- Beebe and Dodd, *Reading Metaphysics*. pages 175-191 (including an extract from Lewis' book *Counterfactuals*)
- *Lewis, D. 1986. *On the Plurality of Worlds* (Blackwell) section 1.5.
- Armstrong, D. 1989 *A Combinatorial Theory of Possibility*, chs. 1-2.
- Lowe, E. J. 2002. *A survey of metaphysics*. Ch.7

Seminar 9: combinatorialism

- Armstrong, D. 1989. *A combinatorial theory of possibility*. (CUP) Ch. 3.
- Armstrong, D. 1997. *A World of States of Affairs*. (CUP) Chapter 10.
- Macbride, F. 1999 'Could Armstrong Have been a Universal?' *MIND*. 108:471-501
- Sider, T. 2005. Another Look at Armstrong's Combinatorialism. *Nous*. 39: 679-695.

Seminar 10: Essence and Modality

- Fine, K. 1994. 'Essence and Modality' *Philosophical Perspectives*. 8: 1-16.
- Correia, F. 2012. 'On the reduction of Necessity to essence.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 84: 639-653.
- Correia, F. 2005. 'Generic Essence, Objectual Essence and Modality.' *Nous*. 40: 753-767.
- Lowe, E. J. 2008. 'Two notions of being: entity and essence' *Philosophy*. 83: 23-48.
- Lowe, E. J. 2012. 'What is the source of our knowledge of modal truths?' *Mind*. 121: 919-950. The whole article is good, but the especially relevant pieces for this course are sections 6-7.