

GR9515 – TOPICS IN METAPHYSICS: NOMINALISM

Achille C. Varzi

Spring 2017 • T 12:10–2:00pm • 716 Philosophy Hall

Office Hours R 12:15–2:15 pm • 713 Philosophy Hall • tel. 4-3531 • email: av72 • url: ~av72

Tentative Schedule and Readings

1. January 17 INTRODUCTION
2. January 24 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 1 The “Problem of Universals”
 - Michael Loux: *Metaphysics* (2006), chapter 1
3. January 31 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 2 Ontology and Paraphrases
 - Arthur Pap: Nominalism, Empiricism and Universals, I (1959)
 - Frank Jackson: Statements about Universals (1977)
 - D. M. Armstrong: *Nominalism and Realism* (1978), chapter 6
 - David Lewis & Stephanie Lewis: Holes (1970)
4. February 7 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 3 Austere Nominalism
 - Francis Bradley: *Appearance and Reality* (1893), volume I, chapter 2
 - W. V. O. Quine: On What There Is (1948)
 - Michael Devitt: “Ostrich Nominalism” or “Mirage Realism?” (1980)
 - D. M. Armstrong: Against “Ostrich” Nominalism: A Reply (1980)
5. February 14 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 4 Resemblance Nominalism
 - Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra: *Resemblance Nominalism* (2002), Selections
6. February 21 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 5 Metalinguistic Nominalism
 - Wilfrid Sellars: Grammar and Existence (1960)
 - Wilfrid Sellars: Abstract Entities (1963)
7. February 28 NOMINALISM ABOUT UNIVERSALS – 6 Trope Theory
 - D. C. Williams: On the Elements of Being, I (1953)
 - Keith Campbell: The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars (1981)
 - Anna-Sofia Maurin: *If Tropes* (2002), Selections
8. March 7 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 1 The “Problem of Abstracta”
 - John Burgess & Gideon Rosen, *A Subject with No Object* (1997), Introduction
9. March 14 *Spring Break*

10. March 21 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 2 Ontology and Paraphrases
 - Nelson Goodman & W. V. O. Quine: Steps towards a Constructive Nominalism (1947)
 - Zoltán Gendler Szabó, Nominalism (2003)
11. March 28 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 3 Individuals vs. Classes
 - Stanisław Leśniewski, Foundations of the general theory of sets, I (1916)
 - Henry Leonard & Leonard Goodman: The Calculus of Individuals (1940)
 - Nelson Goodman: A World of Individuals (1956)
12. April 4 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 4 Indispensability
 - Paul Benacerraf: Mathematical Truth (1973)
 - Mark Colyvan: *The Indispensability of Mathematics* (2001), chapter 1
13. April 11 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 5 Numbers
 - Hartry Field: *Science without Numbers* (1980), Selections
 - Hartry Field: *Realism, Mathematics and Modality* (1989), Introduction
14. April 18 NOMINALISM ABOUT ABSTRACT ENTITIES – 6 Semantics, Modality, and More
 - Mark Balaguer: Attitudes without Propositions (1998)
 - David Lewis: Counterpart Theory and Quantified Modal Logic (1968)
 - Gideon Rosen: Modal Fictionalism (1990)
15. April 25 OPEN ISSUES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS