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- **DESCRIPTION.** This course is designed as an advanced introduction to some major topics in metaphysics: existence, identity, persistence through time, the problem of universals, the nature of particulars, modality, causation, free will.
- **FORMAT.** Two weekly lectures (UN3601), TR 11:40am–12:55pm, 313 Fayerweather, and a mandatory weekly recitation section (UN3611). For the latter you can choose between Section 1 (call number 14962), M 5:10pm–6:00pm, 308A Lewisohn; Section 2 (call number 14963), R 8:10pm–9:00pm, 716 Philosophy Hall; and Section 3 (call number 15010), F 9:10am–10:00am, 716 Philosophy Hall. Please note that every student must officially register for one recitation section.
- **REQUIREMENTS.** The final grade will be determined by participation in the recitation sections (10%), two take-home assignments (25% each), and a final examination (40%).
- **READINGS.** The textbook for the course is M. J. Loux & Thomas M. Crisp, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, 4th ed., Routledge, 2017 (available at Book Culture as well as online through CLIO). In addition, we shall be reading texts from contemporary authors, most of which are collected in M. J. Loux (ed.), *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*, 2nd ed., Routledge, 2008 (also at Book Culture). Further readings are available on *CourseWorks* (section *Files*) in .pdf format.
- **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS.** To receive disability-related academic accommodations for this course, students must first be registered with their school Disability Services (DS) office. Detailed information is available online for both the Columbia and Barnard registration processes. Please refer to the appropriate website for information regarding deadlines, disability documentation requirements, and drop-in hours (Columbia) or intake sessions (Barnard).
- **SCHEDULE.** The following is a tentative (and ambitious) schedule. In the “Readings” column, part/section numbers refer to essays in the Loux collection, whereas ‘pdf’ stands for material posted on *CourseWorks*.

Wk	Date	Topic	Textbook	Readings
1.	T 9/6	Introduction and overview	1–15	/
	R 9/8	Existence (1): What is there?	/	Quine (I/3, pp. 42–47), Moore (pdf)
2.	T 9/13	Existence (2): Truth and the world	/	Lewis & Lewis (pdf)
	R 9/15	Existence (3): Beware of the traps	/	Varzi (pdf)
3.	T 9/20	Universals (1): Introduction	17–29	/
	R 9/22	Universals (2): Realism	29–42	Russell (I/1)
4.	T 9/27	Universals (3): Nominalism	45–69	Quine (I/3, pp. 49–56)
	R 9/29	Universals (4): Trope theory	70–79	Williams (I/4), Maurin (pdf)
<i>Take-home assignment (assigned on R 9/29; to be returned on T 10/4)</i>				
5.	T 10/4	Particulars (1): Introduction; the bundle theory	82–99	Black (II/6)
	R 10/6	Particulars (2): The substratum theory	99–104	Allaire (II/7)
6.	T 10/11	Particulars (3): Substance theory	104–114	/
	R 10/13	Particulars (4): Conventionalism	/	Quine (pdf), Haslanger (pdf)
7.	T 10/18	Persistence (1): Introduction	/	/
	R 10/20	Persistence (2): Endurantism	223–230	Merricks (VI/26)
8.	T 10/25	Persistence (3): Perdurantism	231–248	Heller (VI/25)
	R 10/27	Persistence (4): The stage view; entia successiva	/	Sider (pdf), Chisholm (pdf), Hawley1 (pdf)
9.	T 11/1	Indeterminacy (1): Are there vague objects?	279–303	Tye (pdf, only pp. 535–542), Evans (pdf)
	R 11/3	Indeterminacy (2): Semantics vs. ontology		Hawley2 (pdf)
<i>Take-home assignment (assigned on R 11/3; to be returned on R 11/10)</i>				
10.	T 11/8	<i>Election Day – University Holiday</i>		
	R 11/10	Modality (1): Introduction	149–154	/
11.	T 11/15	Modality (2): Possible worlds	154–162	Lewis (III/10)
	R 11/17	Modality (3): Counterparts vs. identity	162–179	Lewis (III/12), Kripke (III/13)
12.	T 11/22	Causation (1): The idea of necessary connection	181–189	Hume (IV/14), Russell (pdf), Anscombe (IV/16)
	R 11/24	<i>Thanksgiving Day - University Holiday</i>		
13.	T 11/29	Causation (2): The counterfactual theory	189–196	Lewis (IV/18), Beebe (pdf)
	R 12/1	Causation (3): Lessons from time travel	/	Lewis (pdf), Casati & Varzi (pdf), Miller (pdf)
14.	T 12/6	Determinism, freedom, and responsibility	/	Frankfurt (pdf)
	R 12/8	Concluding thoughts	/	/
TBA		<i>Final examination</i>		