

Achille C. Varzi

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### **Requirements and Organization**

The seminar presupposes some familiarity with metaphysics and some acquaintance with elementary logical notions and techniques. There is no specific requirement for R-credit, except for regular and active participation. For letter grade, the requirements are a short seminar presentation and a final paper (approximately 15 pages).

### **Readings**

The readings will be decided and made available as we go on. I shall, however, refer extensively to material from the following four texts:

P. Simons, *Parts: A Study in Ontology* (Oxford, Clarendon, 1987)

M. Rea, *Material Constitution: A Reader* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1997)

R. Casati and A. Varzi, *Parts and Places* (MIT Press, 1999)

F. Correia, *Existential Dependence* (Philosophia Verlag, 2005)

### **Tentative Schedule**

- Jan 22    *No class (Inauguration day)*
- 1. Jan 27    Metaphysics, Ontology, Formal Ontology
- 2. Feb 3    Introduction to Formal Ontology
- 3. Feb 10    Identity, 1: Basic Principles
- 4. Feb 17    Identity, 2: *Discussion session: Indeterminacy and Contingency*
- 5. Feb 24    Mereology, 1: Introduction
- 6. Mar 3    Mereology, 2: Basic Notions and Principles
- 7. Mar 10    Mereology, 3: 3: Decomposition Principles
- Mar 17    *No class (Spring break)*
- 8. Mar 24    Mereology, 4: *Discussion session: Supplementation and Extensionality*
- 9. Mar 31    Mereology, 5: Composition Principles
- 10. Apr 7    Mereology, 6: *Discussion session: Nihilism, Moderatism, Universalism*
- 11. Apr 14    Mereology, 7: Vagueness and Fuzziness
- 12. Apr 21    Mereology, 8: *Discussion session: Vague Objects*
- 13. Apr 28    Beyond Identity and Mereology
- 14. May 5?    Concluding discussion session