

## Metaphysics

The Ship of Theseus made an annual mission to Delos because of a vow made to Apollo. The ship was preserved over many years, and new parts were added to replace the old parts. Eventually, all of the original parts were replaced. At that time, a museum curator collected all of the old original parts and used them to rebuild the ship for an exhibit. So now we have two ships. One ship making the annual voyage (with no original parts) and another ship in a museum with all of the original parts. Which one is the real Ship of Theseus?

This puzzle raises some of the themes we will explore in this course, including identity, material constitution, and the relationship between part and whole (mereology). In addition to these themes, we will cover recent developments of the theory of part and whole to include boundaries and spatial structures (mereotopology). Other themes to be covered include ontological dependence and metaphysical topics in the natural sciences, such as naturalism, reduction and emergence.

We will use some formal notation, but no prior knowledge is assumed.

Language of instruction is English, but assignments may be completed in German.

Course material will draw from the following texts, among others:

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

Ladyman, J. and Ross, D. *Every Thing Must Go*. Oxford, 2007.

Rea, M. (ed.) *Material Constitution*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1997.

Simons, P. *Parts*. Oxford, 1987.

**19 April 2011**

### Introduction to Metaphysics

**26 April 2011**

#### Physicalism

Stoljar, D. "Physicalism" in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, URL =

<http://www.science.uva.nl/~seop/entries/physicalism/>

**3 May 2011**

#### Hylomorphism

Aristotle [Physics](#) 192b8-195b30

Cohen, S. M. "Aristotle's Metaphysics" (sections 5-8, especially 8) in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, URL =

<http://www.science.uva.nl/~seop/entries/aristotle-metaphysics/>

**10 May 2011**

#### Idealism

Schopenhauer, A. [Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung](#) (vol. II, chapter 1)

Kant, I. "Widerlegung des Idealismus" [Kritik der reinen Vernunft](#) B275 - B279

**17 May 2011**

#### Reduction

Batterman, R. "Philosophical Models of Reduction" in [The Devil in the Details](#). Oxford University Press, 2002.

Batterman, R. "Intertheory Relations in Physics" in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, URL=

<http://www.science.uva.nl/~seop/entries/physics-interrelate/>

**24 May 2011**

**Emergence**

Kim, J. "Making Sense of Emergence" *Philosophical Studies* 95 (1999) 3-36.

Bishop, R. "Downward causation in fluid convection" *Synthese* 160 (2008) 229-248.

optional: Thompson, E. "Emergence and the Problem of Downward Causation" in *Mind in Life*. Harvard University Press, 2007.

**31 May 2011**

**NO CLASS**

**7 June 2011**

**Naturalism**

Ladyman, J. and Ross, D. "In Defence of Scientism" Chapter 1 *Every Thing Must Go*. Oxford, 2007.

Hawley, K. "Throwing the Baby Out With the Bathwater" (Ilias)

**14 June 2011**

**Identity**

Chisholm, R. "Identity Through Time" in Rea, M. (ed.) *Material Constitution*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1997.

Simons, P. Chapter 5.4 - 5.7 *Parts*. Oxford, 1987.

**21 June 2011**

**Material Constitution**

Wasserman, R. "Material Constitution" in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, URL =

<http://www.science.uva.nl/~seop/entries/material-constitution/>

Unger, P. "I Do Not Exist" in Rea, M. (ed.) *Material Constitution*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1997.

**28 June 2011**

**Mereology I**

Casati, R. and Varzi, A. Chapter 3 *Parts and Places*. MIT Press, 1999.

Simons, P. Chapter 1 *Parts*. Oxford, 1987.

**5 July 2011**

**Mereology II**

Casati, R. and Varzi, A. Chapter 3 *Parts and Places*. MIT Press, 1999.

Simons, P. Chapter 3 *Parts*. Oxford, 1987.

**12 July 2011**

**Mereotopology**

Casati, R. and Varzi, A. Chapter 4 *Parts and Places*. MIT Press, 1999.

**19 July 2011**

**Ontological Dependence**

Lowe, E. J. "Ontological Dependence" in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, URL =

<http://www.science.uva.nl/~seop/entries/dependence-ontological/>

Simons, P. Chapter 8 *Parts*. Oxford, 1987.