

Philosophy 258: Metaphysics

Fall 2004

Time: MWF 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM
Location: 241 University College
Instructor: Ben Caplan
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I. Required texts

1. Michael J. Loux, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge Contemporary Introductions to Philosophy, 2nd ed. (London: Routledge, 2002).
2. Michael J. Loux, ed., *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*, Routledge Contemporary Readings in Philosophy (London: Routledge, 2002).

II. Course requirements

Three short papers (3-5 pages each), each worth 33.3% of the final grade.

Due dates for the papers will be announced in class at least one week in advance.

III. A warning about academic dishonesty

It is difficult to overstate the importance of academic honesty. If you are unsure about what counts as academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism) or about how to cite sources, ask. You are responsible for knowing the University of Manitoba regulations. Start by consulting the General Academic Regulations and Requirements, particularly Section 7 (Academic Integrity). See Section 7.1 (on Plagiarism and Cheating) at

<http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar05/regulations/plagiarism.asp>.

IV. Tentative outline

We will definitely cover the following three topics. (If there is more time, we will cover more topics.) Readings marked 'Loux' are from *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*. Other readings are from *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Anthology*.

1. Universals: Are There Any?

1.1. Realism: *Yes, there are.*

Readings: Loux, Chapter 1; Russell, "The World of Universals"; Armstrong, "Universals as Attributes."

1.2. Nominalism: *No, there aren't.*

Reading: Loux, Chapter 2.

1.2.1. Austere Nominalism: *All there are are concrete particulars.*

Readings: Quine, "On What There Is"; Price, "Universals and Resemblances."

1.2.2 . Trope Theory: *Properties are abstract particulars.*

Reading: Williams, "The Elements of Being."

2. Concrete Particulars I: What Are They?

Reading: Loux, Chapter 3

2.1. *They are bare particulars.*

Readings: Black, "The Indiscernibility of Identicals"; Allaire, "Bare Particulars."

2.2. The Bundle Theory: *They are bundles.*

Readings: Williams, "The Elements of Being"; Van Cleve, "Three Versions of the Bundle Theory"; Casullo, "A Fourth Version of the Bundle Theory."

3. Concrete Particulars II: How Do They Persist?

Reading: Loux, Chapter 6

3.1. Perdurantism: *They have distinct temporal parts at every time at which they exist.*

Reading: Heller, "Temporal Parts of Four-Dimensional Objects."

3.2. Endurantism: *They are wholly present at every time at which they exist.*

Reading: Merricks, "Endurance and Indiscernibility."