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- DESCRIPTION. This course is designed as an advanced introduction to some major topics in metaphysics: existence, identity, the nature of attributes, the nature of concrete particulars, persistence through time, indeterminacy, modality, causation, determinism.
- REQUIREMENTS. There will be two take-home assignments and a final examination. Each assignment will be worth 30% of the final grade; the examination will account for the remaining 40%.
- TEXT. The textbook for the course is M. L. Loux, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, Third Edition, Routledge, 2006 (available at Book Culture). In addition, we shall be reading texts from contemporary authors, most of which are collected in a companion anthology: M. L. Loux (ed.), *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings*, Second Edition, Routledge, 2008 (also available at Book Culture). Further readings will be made available in pdf form on the course web site.
- WEB SITE. Material for this course is posted on <http://www.columbia.edu/~av72/metaphysics>.
- SCHEDULE. The following is a tentative (and ambitious) schedule. In the “Readings” column, part/section numbers refer to articles in the Loux anthology, whereas ‘pdf’ stands for material posted on the web.

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook	Readings
1.	W 9/9	Introduction and overview	1-16	
2.	M 9/14	Existence (1): What is there?		Quine (I/3, p. 42), Moore (pdf)
	W 9/16	Existence (2): Truth and the world		Lewis&Lewis (pdf)
3.	M 9/21	Existence (3): Beware of the traps		Varzi (pdf)
	W 9/23	Universals (1): Experience, predication, reference	17-30	
4.	M 9/28	Universals (2): Realism	30-43	Russell (I/1)
	W 9/30	Universals (3): Nominalism	46–71	Quine (I/3, pp. 43-56),
5.	M 10/5	Universals (4): Trope Theory and Fictionalism	71–81	Williams (I/4)
	W 10/7	Particulars (1): Introduction; the bundle theory	85-101	Black (II/6)
<i>Take-home assignment (return on M 10/12)</i>				
6.	M 10/12	Particulars (2): The substratum theory	101-107	Allaire (II/7)
	W 10/14	Particulars (3): Substances	107-117	
7.	M 10/19	Particulars (4): Conventions	107-117	Quine (pdf)
	W 10/21	Persistence (1): Endurantism	230-238	Merricks (VI/26)
8.	M 10/26	Persistence (2): Perdurantism	238-256	Heller (VI/25)
	W 10/28	Persistence (3): The stage view; Entia successiva		Sider (pdf), Chisholm (pdf)
9.	M 11/2	<i>Academic Holiday</i>		
	W 11/4	Indeterminacy (1): Are there vague objects?		Evans (pdf), Tye (pdf, pp. 535-542)
10.	M 11/9	Indeterminacy (2): Semantics vs. ontology		Hawley (pdf, pp. 100-116)
	W 11/11	Indeterminacy (3): Applications		Hawley (pdf, pp. 116-139)
<i>Take-home assignment (return on M 11/16)</i>				
11.	M 11/16	Modality (1): Introduction	153-158	
	W 11/18	Modality (2): Possible worlds	158-166	Lewis (III/10)
12.	M 11/23	Modality (3): Counterparts vs. identity	166-184	Lewis (III/12), Kripke (III/13)
	W 11/25	Causation (1): The idea of necessary connection	187-195	Hume (IV/14), Russell (pdf)
13.	M 11/30	Causation (2): The regularity account	195-198	Mackie (IV/17)
	W 12/2	Causation (3): The counterfactual theory	198-203	Lewis (IV/18)
14.	M 12/7	A case study: Time Travel		Casati&Varzi (pdf)
	W 12/9	Determinism, freedom, and responsibility		Frankfurt (pdf)
15.	M 12/14	Conclusions	259-265	
	TBA	<i>Final examination</i>		