Course Guide

PHIL10112: The Structure of Being
2016/17

Course Organiser:
Professor Dory Scaltsas (Scaltsas@ed.ac.uk)
Office Location: Dugald Stewart Building room 6.03
Telephone: 0131 650 3649

Course Secretary:
Sam Bell (philinfo@ed.ac.uk)
PPLS Teaching Office
Dugald Stewart Building, room G.06
Telephone: 0131 650 6302

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Department of Philosophy
School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
University of Edinburgh
1. Course Aims and Objectives

The running thread throughout the course will be Neo-Aristotelianism in contemporary metaphysics.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

The coursework involves close and critical analysis of various historical and current views on central issues in the ontology of substances. Students are asked to read, critically assess and discuss some of the most important texts in these fields. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in individual research and their critical, analytic communication skills through informal discussion in the classroom.

3. Course Description

The topics which will be discussed as such as Logical Atomism; Abstract Objects; Universals; Nominalism; Substances versus Bundles; States of Affairs; Hylomorphism; Substantial Holism.

4. Seminar Content

Lecture 1 - The Origins of Analytic Metaphysics
Lecture 2 – Logical Atomism, Logical Positivism
Lecture 3 - Abstract Objects and Universals 1
Lecture 4 - Abstract Objects and Universals 2
Lecture 5 - Abstract Objects-3 and Nominalism-1
Lecture 6 - Nominalism 2
Lecture 7 - Nominalism 3
Lecture 8 - Substances versus Bundles 1
Lecture 9 - Substances versus Bundles 2
Lecture 10 - States of Affairs
Lecture 11 - Aristotle – Unity of Matter and Form
Lecture 11 - Hylomorphism or Substantial Holism

5. Readings

http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/metaphysics/
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logical-atomism/
Particular readings are recommended in the sources above.

6. Assessment

1. Mid-term essay of 1,500 words (40%)

2. Final two-hour examination in the May diet (60%)