Advanced Topics in Metaphysics

Seminar, Wednesday 11:10-13:00

Aristotle’s essentialist ontology attracts more and more attention in contemporary metaphysics, therefore good knowledge of its original context and scope is crucial for proper engagement in contemporary debates. In this course we shall study the main concepts and arguments of Aristotle’s theory of substance. We shall start with a brief overview of the problem of being in ancient Greek philosophy, and go on to read, contextualise, analyse and assess the arguments in which Aristotle develops his theory of substance. The questions to be discussed will include: Aristotle’s critical appraisal of Platonism, the concept of substance in the Categories and in Metaphysics, substance and subject, substance and essence, definition, universals and particulars, form as substance.

Reading:

The main primary texts to be studied are Aristotle’s Categories and Metaphysics Z-H.


Additional and secondary readings will be assigned for each seminar meeting. Full reading list will be included in the syllabus as well as detailed weekly readings.