

Aristotle's *Metaphysics*
Philosophy M102
Summer Session A, 2015

Course Description

In this course, we will explore some of the central questions raised in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*. We will begin by looking at Aristotle's account, in the *Categories*, of the things that are, and then turn our attention to substances and qualities. How should we understand the relationship between, for example, Socrates and his weight? If Socrates gains some weight, what makes it the case that he's still Socrates and not a different person? To answer this question, we will have to investigate what makes matter into a particular thing, whether different kinds of objects (say, a chair and a human) have different forms, and how we can individuate two objects of the same kind (so, for example, what is the difference between two chairs, or between Socrates and Plato)? Along the way, we'll study Aristotle's account of species, genus and differentiae; essence; form and matter; and universals and particulars.

Course Website

<https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/151A-CLASSICM147-1>

Use the course website to access course information, including readings, assignments, and announcements.

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday, 2-4p, 394 Dodd

Grades:

Quizzes:	10%
Midterm:	30%
<u>Final Paper:</u>	<u>60%</u>
Total:	100%

Policy on late or missed assignments: Quizzes cannot be made up.

Plagiarism: If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

You can also consult the Dean of Students website, <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/>, for more information about cheating, multiple submissions of assignments, and plagiarism.

Course Expectations

Carefully read the texts assigned for each week, and have them available in class. The readings are very short (usually no longer than 10 pages) because they are extremely difficult. Spend some time puzzling over them.

Please be prepared to participate actively in class discussion. Because the summer session is so short, I hope students will attend every class. If you miss a class, it is up to you to get caught up.

Lecture and Reading Schedule, and Assignment Due Dates

Week 1

06/22 Introduction

- No readings

06/24 Categories

- *Categories*, Chs. 1-5 (beginning – 4a10)
- *Metaphysics I*, Chs. 1-2

Week 2

06/29 Substance

- *Metaphysics Z*, Chs. 1-3
- Review *Categories*, Ch. 1

07/01 Essence

- *Metaphysics Z*, Chs. 4-6

Week 3

07/06 Form + Matter

- *Metaphysics Z*, Chs. 7-9

07/08 Universals (and Particulars)

- Plato's *Phaedo* (excerpts)
- *Metaphysics Z*, Chs. 13-17

Week 4

07/13 Midterm

- No new readings

07/15 Potentiality

- *Metaphysics Θ*, Chs. 1-5

Week 5

07/20 Actuality

- *Metaphysics Θ*, Chs. 6-9

07/22 Aristotle on Parts and Wholes

- *Metaphysics H*, Ch. 6
- *Metaphysics Z*, Chs. 10-11

▷ Prompts for final paper will be handed out

Week 6

07/27 Plato on Parts and Wholes

- *Theaetetus* (excerpts)
- *Parmenides* (excerpts)

07/29 Theseus' Ship

- Scaltsas, "The Ship of Theseus"

▷ Final papers are DUE on 07/31 by 3p. Please leave a hard copy in my mailbox, and submit an electronic copy to turnitin.

Additional Readings for a Full Semester Course or Graduate Seminar Might Include:

- Albritton, Rogers, "Forms of Particular Substances in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," *Journal of Philosophy*, 54: 699–707 (1957)
- Allen, R. E., "Individual Properties in Aristotle's *Categories*," *Phronesis*, 14: 31–39 (1969)
- Annas, J., "Individuals in Aristotle's *Categories*: Two Queries," *Phronesis*, 19: 146–152 (1974)
- Bostock, D., *Aristotle: Metaphysics Books Z and H* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994)
- Burnyeat, M. F., *A Map of Metaphysics Zeta* (Pittsburgh, PA: Mathesis Publications, 2001)
- Code, Alan, "No Universal is a Substance: an Interpretation of *Metaphysics Z* 13, 1038b 8–15," in G. C. Simmons 1978, pp. 65–74 (1978)
- S. Marc Cohen, "Individual and Essence in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," in Simmons 1978, pp. 75–85
- Devereux, Daniel, "Inherence and Primary Substance in Aristotle's *Categories*," *Ancient Philosophy*, 12: 113–131 (1992)
- Devereux, Daniel, "The Relation between Books Zeta and Eta of Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*, 25: 159–211 (2003)
- Kit Fine, "A Puzzle Concerning Matter and Form," in Scaltsas, Charles, and Gill 1994, pp. 13–40 (1994)
- Michael Frede, "The Definition of Sensible Substances in *Metaphysics Z*," in Devereux and Pellegrin 1990, pp. 113–129
- Gill, Mary Louise, *Aristotle on Substance: The Paradox of Unity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989)
- Loux, *Primary Ousia: An Essay on Aristotle's Metaphysics Z and H* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991)