Contemporary Issues in Ontology and Social Ontology  
Central European University  
Summer 2023  

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Block A: Mark Balaguer (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1. Metaontology and Anti-Metaphysics  
   Recommended Reading: Balaguer, *Metaphysics, Sophistry, and Illusion*, Chapter 7, minus the appendix (pp. 201-214).

2. Conceptual Analysis  
   Recommended Reading: Balaguer, *Metaphysics, Sophistry, and Illusion*, Chapter 8 (pp. 218-247).

3. Amelioration and Description  
   Recommended Reading: (i) Haslanguer, “Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?,” section I (pp.32-35); and (ii) Bettcher, excerpts (posted on the course website) from “Feminist Philosophical Engagements With Trans Studies,” “Theorizing Closeness,” “Trans Feminism: Recent Philosophical Developments,” and “Trans Theory Meets Feminist Philosophy” (20 pages total).

Block B: Talia Bettcher (Zoom Lecture)

   Recommended Reading: Bettcher, excerpts (posted on the course website) from “Feminist Philosophical Engagements With Trans Studies,” “Theorizing Closeness,” “Trans Feminism: Recent Philosophical Developments,” and “Trans Theory Meets Feminist Philosophy” (20 pages total).

Block C: Åsa Burman (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1. Ideal and Nonideal Social Ontology  
   Background reading: Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, especially pp. 72-82.

2. Deontic Power and Telic Power  

3. Structural Power and Other Forms of Social Power

Block D: Esa Diaz-Leon (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1. Characterizing Social Constructionism I: The problem of circularity
2. Characterizing Social Constructionism II: Concept-Dependence vs. Culture-Dependence.
3. Achieving Reference to Covert Social Constructions I
4. Achieving Reference to Covert Social Constructions II
   Recommended Reading: Díaz-León, E. (2019) “On How to Achieve Reference to Covert Social Constructions.” Studia Phil

Block E: Alex Grzankowski (Face-to-Face Lectures)

Useful background but not required:
   a. Section 7: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/propositions/#nature
   b. https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/prop-attitude-reports/

1. It’s Not 1990 (or 1890) Anymore
   Recommended reading: Soames, Scott. Rethinking Language, Mind, and Meaning. Precis

2. Minimal Propositions
   https://philpapers.org/archive/GRZPOT.pdf

3. Mental Content and Frege’s Puzzle
   https://philpapers.org/archive/GRZCP.pdf

Block F: Ferenc Huoranszki (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1. Nature and Reason

2. The Ground of Laws

3. Properties and Systems

Block G: Michaela McSweeney (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1.

2.

3.

Block H: Asya Passinsky (Face-to-Face Lectures)

1. Social Construction and Grounding
   - **Mandatory reading**: Schaffer, “Social Construction as Grounding; Or: Fundamentality for Feminists, a Reply to Barnes and Mikkola,” sections 1–2 (pp. 2449–56).

2. Grounding and Anchoring in the Social Realm
   - **Mandatory reading**: Epstein, *The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences*, chapter 6 (pp. 74–87).
   - **Recommended reading**: (i) Schaffer, “Anchoring as Grounding: On Epstein’s the Ant Trap” (pp. 749–67); and (ii) Epstein, *The Ant Trap: Rebuilding the Foundations of the Social Sciences*, chapter 9 (pp. 115–28).
   - **Supplementary reading**: Passinsky, “Social Construction and Meta-Ground,” section 6 (pp. 23–29).

3. Ameliorative Metaphysics, Part I
   - **Mandatory reading**: Barnes, “Realism and Social Structure,” sections 1–3 (pp. 2417–22).
   - **Recommended reading**: Dembroff, “What Is Sexual Orientation?,” section 1 and section 2 through the subsection “Framework I: Purposes” (pp. 1–6).
- **Supplementary reading:** Passinsky, “Ameliorative Metaphysics,” sections 1–5 (pp. 1–12).
- **Background reading:** Haslanger, “Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?,” sections 1–2 (pp. 31–37).

4. Ameliorative Metaphysics, Part II
   - **Mandatory reading:** Schaffer, “Social Construction as Grounding; Or: Fundamentality for Feminists, a Reply to Barnes and Mikkola,” section 3.3 (pp. 2462–63).
   - **Supplementary reading:** Passinsky, “Ameliorative Metaphysics,” sections 6–7 (pp. 12–18).

Block I: Student Presentations (Face-to-Face Presentations)