

FIL 4100 Metaphysics: *Quantification, Naturalness and Ontology*

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In this class, we investigate what it means to say that *there are*, or *exist* some things of a certain sort. Furthermore, we investigate whether there is a way of expressing what *really* exist (various tiny bits of physical matter?), as opposed to what doesn't really exist, but somehow seem to exist nonetheless (tables and chairs?).

In short, we study notions of quantification, naturalness and fundamental existence. The class is relevant not only to metaphysics, but also to the philosophy of language, philosophy of logic, and the philosophy of mathematics.

Preliminary Requirements: none. We start out by reading the original sources, so no particular background should be required.

Required readings (this is a tentative list!)

1. Charles Sanders Peirce *On the Algebra of Logic* (the parts from 1885); Gottlob Frege *Begriffsschrift* (excerpts).
2. Bertrand Russell *The Principles of Mathematics* (excerpts); *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism* (excerpts); *Mathematical Logic as based on the Theory of Types*.
3. Alfred Tarski *The concept of truth in formalized languages*
4. Ruth Barcan Marcus *Quantification and Ontology*; *Nominalism and the Substitutional Quantifier*; W.V.O. Quine *Reply to Professor Marcus*; *Quantification and Existence* (from *Ontological Relativity and other essays*).
5. Saul Kripke *Is there a problem about substitutional quantification?*
6. Rudolf Carnap *Empiricism, Semantics, Ontology*; W.V.O Quine *On What There Is*
7. David Chalmers *Ontological Anti-realism*; Ted Sider *Ontological Realism*
8. W.V.O. Quine *Natural Kinds*; David Lewis *New work for a theory of universals*; Cian Dorr & John Hawthorne *Naturalness*
9. Cian Dorr & John Hawthorne *Naturalness*; Paul Portner *What is meaning?* (ch.6); Michael Glanzberg *Quantification*
10. John Burgess *Being Explained Away*; Jason Turner *Ontological Nihilism*
11. George Boolos *To be is to be the value of a variable (or some values of some variables)*; David Lewis *Parts of Classes* (excerpts); Øystein Linnebo *Plural Quantification Exposed*
12. Bertrand Russell *Mathematical Logic as based on the Theory of Types*; Richard Cartwright *Everything*; Michael Glanzberg *Quantification and Realism*
13. Stewart Shapiro & Crispin Wright *All Things Indefinitely Extensible*
14. Timothy Williamson *Everything*; David Lewis *Parts of Classes* (excerpts)

Suggested additional readings

1. W.V.O. Quine *Methods of Logic* (part II & III)
2. W.V.O. Quine *Ontological Relativity and other essays*
3. W.V.O. Quine *The Variable*
4. W.V.O. Quine *Variables Explained Away*

5. John O'Leary-Hawthorne & Andrew Cortens *Towards Ontological Nihilism*
6. Ruth Barcan Marcus *Modalities and Intensional Languages*
7. Kit Fine *The Question of Ontology*
8. Charles Parsons *A plea for substitutional quantification*
9. Peter van Inwagen *Why I don't understand substitutional quantification*
10. A. Rayo & G. Uzquiano (eds.) *Absolute Generality* (OUP, 2006)
11. D. Chalmers et al. (eds.) *Metametaphysics* (OUP, 2009)
12. Jaakko Hintikka & Gabriel Sandu *What is a Quantifier?*
13. Jaakko Hintikka *Quantifiers vs. Quantification Theory*
14. Michael Dummett *Quantification*
15. Michael Dummett *Does Quantification Involve Identity?*
16. Einar D. Bohn *Must there be a top level?*