

Metaphysics Comprehensive Exam Reading List

An excellent general introduction to contemporary metaphysics is Michael Loux, *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction* (3rd ed., Routledge), especially chapters 1, 2, 3 and 6. Unless otherwise noted, all of these readings can be found in Loux, ed., *Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings* (Routledge).

Universals

Armstrong, David. "Universals as Attributes"

Quine, W. V. "On What There Is"

Russell, Bertrand. "The World of Universals"

Williams, D. C. "The Elements of Being"

Devitt, Michael. "[‘Ostrich Nominalism’ or ‘Mirage Realism’?](#)"

Balaguer, Mark. "Platonism in Metaphysics." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2007 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2007/entries/platonism/>.

Concrete Particulars

Allaire, Edwin B. "Bare Particulars"

Black, Max. "The Identity of Indiscernibles"

Van Cleve, James. "Three Versions of the Bundle Theory"

Persistence Through Time

Heller, Mark. "Temporal Parts of Four-Dimensional Objects"

Lewis, David. "Counterparts or Double Lives?"

Merricks, Trenton. "Endurance and Indiscernibility"

Attacks on Metaphysics

Carnap, Rudolf. "[The Elimination of Metaphysics Through Logical Analysis of Language](#)"

Free Will

Van Inwagen, Peter. "[The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism](#)"

Frankfurt, Harry. "[Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility](#)"

Hobart, R. E. "[Free Will as Involving Determinism and Inconceivable Without It](#)"

Anscombe, G. E. M. "[Causality and Determinism](#)"

Chisholm, Roderick M. "[Human Freedom and the Self](#)"

Kane, Robert. "[Free Will: New Directions for an Ancient Problem](#)"

Sex/Gender and Race:

Hale, Jacob. "[Are Lesbians Women?](#)" *Hypatia* 11.2 (1996): 94-121.

Haslanger, Sally. "Feminist Metaphysics." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2007 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2007/entries/feminism-metaphysics/>.

Haslanger, Sally. "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?" *Nous* 34.1 (2000): 31-55. <http://www.mit.edu/~shaslang/papers/WIGRnous.pdf>

Mills, Charles. "But What are You Really?" *Race, Gender, and Sexuality: Philosophical Issues of Identity and Justice*. Ed. Jami L. Anderson. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2003. 173-193.

Stein, Edward. "Essentialism and Constructionism about Sexual Orientation." *The Mismeasure of Desire: The Science, Theory, and Ethics of Sexual Orientation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. 93-116.