

Comps reading list for metaphysics.

The purpose of this list is to inform a graduate student contemplating taking metaphysics as a major or minor area for his or her comprehensive examinations of some basic reading needed to begin to develop competency in the subject. A student may use this information for the following purposes:

1. To decide whether to take a comprehensive examination in this area.
2. To get started early on reading central texts in preparation for a comprehensive examination in this area.
3. As a partial list (for the major list) or as a complete list (for the minor list).

In certain cases and only with the agreement of all faculty members specializing in metaphysics, it may be possible for a student to use this list as a template to construct his or her own specific reading list. It is expected that any such individually designed reading list will include an appropriate subset of these (or equivalent) readings.

Students taking metaphysics as a major will be expected to add readings in one or two additional areas (examples include metaontology, mereology, persistence, material constitution, vagueness). The final list for a major or a minor is to be developed in conjunction with his or her committee.

Personal Identity

Roderick Chisholm, 'The Persistence of Persons'.

Sydney Shoemaker, 'Persons and Their Pasts'.

Bernard Williams, 'The Self and the Future'.

Derek Parfit, 'Personal Identity'.

Causation

G.E.M. Anscombe, 'Causality and Determinism'.

John L. Mackie 'Causes and Conditions'.

Michael Dummett, "Bringing About the Past"

David Lewis, 'Counterfactual Dependence and Time's Arrow'.

David Lewis, 'Causation as Influence.'

James Woodward, *Making Things Happen*, ch.1, "Introduction and Preview" and ch.2, "Causation and Manipulation."

Properties, Identity and Mereology

DM Armstrong, *A Theory of Universals* vols. 1 & 2

David Lewis, “New Work for a Theory of Universals”

Sydney Shoemaker “Causality and Properties”

Peter van Inwagen, “The Doctrine of Arbitrary Undetached Parts”

Peter van Inwagen, *Material Beings*, chs 2-4., The Special Composition Question,”

“Contact,” and “The General Composition Question.”

P.F. Strawson, ch.1, “Bodies,” from *Individuals*.

W.V. Quine, “On What There Is”

W.V. Quine, “Ontological Relativity”

Time

J.M.E. McTaggart, “The Unreality of Time”

A.N. Prior, 'The Notion of the Present'

D.C. Williams, 'The Myth of Passage'.

W.V. Quine, 'Identity, Ostension and Hypostasis'

Sally Haslanger, “Persistence through Time”

Peter van Inwagen, “Four-dimensional Objects”

Steven Savitt, “There’s No Time Like the Present (in Minkowski Spacetime)”

Modality

Saul Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*.

Michael Loux (ed), *The Possible and the Actual*, ch. 1, “Modality and Metaphysics”

(Loux), ch. 3, “Identity Through Possible Worlds: Some Questions” (Chisholm), ch. 5,

“Counterpart Theory and Quantified Modal Logic” (Lewis), ch. 9, “Possible Worlds”

(Lewis), ch. 10, “Theories of Actuality” (Adams), ch. 12, “Possible Worlds” (Stalnaker).

Kit Fine, “Reference, Essence, and Identity,” in *Modality and Tense*.

Robert Adams, “Primitive Identity and Primitive Thisness”

David Lewis, *On the Plurality of Worlds*, ch. 3, “Paradise on the Cheap?” and ch. 4,

“Counterparts or Double Lives?” (This is about ½ of the book.)

Peter van Inwagen, "Two Concepts of Possible Worlds"