Phil 3401 Metaphysics

Class Number 46566 Section   TQ6   Tues   6:05 – 9:25pm

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In this class, we will study some historical and contemporary treatments of ontology (the theory of being). We will inquire into what must be the case in order to exist and then see whether the criteria we uncover imply that there are round-squares, unicorns, numbers, or holes and other absences. We'll also turn these criteria loose on other putative entities, such as chairs, rocks, cacti, dogs, and persons. Surprisingly, it might turn out that some or all of these things do not exist. Often philosophers make decisions about what there is based upon their notions of individuality, identity, change, and persistence. We will examine many of these concepts as well.

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