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| **Code of course**: BMI-LOTD17-105E.02 |
| **Title of course**: **Metaphysics** |
| **Lecturer**: Dániel Kodaj |
| **General aim of the course**:  An introduction to contemporary metaphysics.  **Content of the course**: In the history of philosophy, metaphysics used to deal with questions that are nowadays investigated by physics and theology. Today, metaphysics studies extremely general concepts that the sciences (as well as ordinary people) often use but rarely if ever define. These concepts include time, causation, identity, part and whole, abstract and concrete, and many other fundamental notions. The seminar introduces some of the basic problems and approaches in contemporary metaphysics. We will talk about colours, parts and wholes, the existence of biological organisms, the idea of fundamental reality, possibility and necessity, the nature of abstract objects, the reality of social categories like gender, and some links between metaphysics and quantum mechanics.  **Grading criteria, specific requirements**:  Presentation + essay (1500 words)  **Required reading**:  Ásta (2018): *Categories We Live By*. Oxford University Press.  Divers, John (2006): *Possible Worlds*. Routledge.  Hirsch, Eli (2011): *Quantifier Variance and Realism*. Oxford University Press.  Jubien, Michael (1997): *Contemporary Metaphysics*. Blackwell.  Ladyman, James et al. (2009): *Every Thing Must Go: Metaphysics Naturalized*. Oxford University Press.  Merricks, Trenton (2015): *Propositions*. Clarendon Press.  Schaffer, Jonathan (2009): On what grounds what. In Chalmers et al. (eds), *Metametaphyics*, Clarendon press.  van Inwagen, Peter (1990): *Material Beings*. Cornell University Press.  Wilson, Alastair (2020): *The Nature of Contingency*. Oxford University Press.  Wray, Brad (2018): *Resisting Scientific Realism*. Cambridge University Press.  **Suggested further reading**:  Sider et al. (eds) (2008): *Contemporary Debates in Metaphysics*. Blackwell.van Inwagen, Peter (2009): *Metaphysics*. Westview Press. |