

PHI 540: Metaphysics

Syllabus on Monism
Readings marked * are optional.

Friday October 30th: We are all one

- Arnold Zuboff, “One Self”
- *—Alan Watts, *The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing who You Are*, Chapter 1: “Inside Information”

Friday November 6th: Fall break, no class

Friday November 13th: No class (to be made up on Dec 1st)

Friday November 20th: Monism in Spinoza

- Martin Lin, “Substance, Attribute, and Mode in Spinoza”
- Jonathan Bennett, *A Study of Spinoza’s Ethics*, Chapter 4: “Extended Substance”
- Anat Schechtman, “Causation, Dependence, and the Allegedly Cartesian Roots of Spinoza’s Substance Monism”
- *—Benedict de Spinoza, *Ethics* Part I up to 1p14.

Tuesday December 1st: Monism in Buddhist philosophy (Graham Priest visits)

- Graham Priest, *One: Being an Investigation into the Unity of Reality and of its Parts, including the Singular Object which is Nothingness*
 - Chapter 11: “Absence of Self, and the Net of Indra”
 - Chapter 15: “Compassion”

Friday December 4th: Monism in the British Idealists

- Peter Hylton, *Russell, Idealism, and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy*, Chapter 2: “F.H. Bradley”

Friday December 11th: Contemporary Monism I: Schaffer

- Jonathan Schaffer, “The Internal Relatedness of all Things”
- Jonathan Schaffer, “The Action of the Whole”
- Elizabeth Miller, “Schaffer on the Action of the Whole”

Friday December 18th: Contemporary Monism II: Della Rocca

- Michael Della Rocca, “Violations of the Principle of Sufficient Reason (In Leibniz and Spinoza)”
- Jeffrey McDonough, “Leibniz, Spinoza, and an Alleged Dilemma for Rationalists”