

Philosophy 9035A
Aristotle's Metaphysics
Course Outline (tentative)



Seminar:

Autumn 2016
Thursdays 8.30-11.20
StvH 1145

Instructor:

John Thorp, StvH 4141, jthorp@uwo.ca
Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 12.30-1.20

Description and Course Objectives:

This seminar is intended to introduce students to some main issues, and some main texts, of Aristotle's metaphysical enquiry. The issues will include the quest for substance, the meaning of 'essence', the idea of 'being *qua* being', form and matter, the nature of soul, the system of categories, the status of mathematics, Aristotelian theology, and the enterprise of metaphysics itself. Throughout these discussions a watchful eye will be kept on the ways in which Aristotle's work shaped subsequent thinking.

Method of Instruction & Texts:

The weekly seminars will consider assigned readings of primary texts, working to draw out their thematic implications.

The texts under discussion will be drawn almost entirely from Aristotle's *Categories*, *de Anima*, and *Metaphysics*. Students should equip themselves with versions of these works that contain Bekker page and line references.

Work Required:

Eight short exegetical exercises (1-2 pp) due at various dates throughout the term: 20%
Two conference-style papers (max. 3000 words) due early November and early January: 70%
Class participation: 10%.

Bonus essay marks will be awarded to students who submit one of their papers (appropriately revised) for the program of the CPA or some other conference in 2017.