

Philosophy 741

Seminar in Metaphysics

Ned Markosian
Department of Philosophy
University of Massachusetts – Amherst
markosian@umass.edu
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Meetings: Thursdays 4:00-6:30pm, South College E301

My Office: South College E421

My Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2, Thursdays 2-3, and by appointment

Course Overview

This is a seminar on the metaphysics of material objects and the matter that constitutes them. We will focus on two different books on these topics: Simon Evnine's recent book, *Making Objects and Events: A Hylomorphic Theory of Artifacts, Actions, and Organisms*; and my own book, *Things and Stuff*, which is a work in progress. Each meeting of the seminar will consist of two parts. In Part 1 we'll discuss Evnine's book, with several student presentations, a brief Q&A for each presentation, and some time for general discussion. In Part 2 I will present material from my book, and we'll have some discussion of that.

Course Requirements

- ❖ **Three short (10-15 minute) class presentations** (collectively worth 50% of final grade)
- ❖ **One term paper** (approximately 25 pages; worth 50% of final grade) on an approved topic

Required Reading

- ❖ Simon J. Evnine, *Making Objects and Events: A Hylomorphic Theory of Artifacts, Actions, and Organisms* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

Schedule

	Date	Part 1: Eynine, <i>Making Objects and Events</i>	Part 2: Markosian, <i>Things and Stuff</i>
Sep	7	Course Intro and Admin	Introduction
	14	Chapter 1	The Physical and the Non-Physical
	21	Chapter 2	Simple Things
	28	Chapter 3 (3.1-3.3)	Composition
Oct	5	Chapter 3 (3.4-3.5)	A Spatial Approach to Mereology I
	12	Chapter 4 (4.1-4.2)	A Spatial Approach to Mereology II
	19	Chapter 4 (4.3-4.4)	The Case for Stuff
	26	Chapter 5	The Mereology of Stuff
Nov	2	Chapter 6	Persistence and Time I
	9	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>
	16	Chapter 7 (7.1-7.4)	Persistence and Time II
	23	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>
	30	Chapter 7 (7.5-7.7)	Stuff Is Not Enough
Dec	7	TBD	The Big Picture
	14	Final papers due @ 5pm	