

**BU PHI 344 A 01— Metaphysics**

**PHI 791 — Reading Seminar in Philosophy I**

***Aristotle's Metaphysics***

**Tuesday and Thursday, 1 PM MOR06**

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*L'enseignement de ce cours se déroulera en anglais, et nous encourageons à s'y inscrire les étudiantes et les étudiants à l'aise avec la compréhension orale et écrite de cette langue. La remise des travaux et la participation en classe peuvent s'effectuer en français suite à l'accord préalable avec le professeur.*

**Course description** (from BU's website)

An investigation of some basic metaphysical problems. These may include: the question of being, the historical development of metaphysical systems, issues and problems in ontology and epistemology, issues and problems in ontology and logic.

**Reading Seminar on Aristotle's *Metaphysics***

The aim of this Seminar is to get a first hand acquaintance with Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, through reading and commenting on specific passages from books 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 12-14. The interpretation will be supported by a historical and philosophical exegesis, but the aim of the seminar is to leave as much room as possible for the participation of everyone in the discussion. Participants will be asked to read in advance the section of the text discussed in class in order to fuel the discussion with their own interpretation and remarks. The next text to read will be determined at the end of each class.

The evaluation will be progressive, and adapted to the academic level of the students taking the seminar (two essays of 10 pages — max. 3000 words — count for 70%, plus a global note of 30% for the participation in the seminar, which implies at least one formal presentation of a passage).

The first essay is due on October 27. The second essay is due on December 15. The program of the oral presentations will be scheduled in class. The basic structure and intent of the essay will be explained in class, three weeks before the first essay is due (October 4).

To support our reading we will follow: Politis, Vasilis, *Aristotle and the Metaphysics*, London, Routledge, 2004.

### **Few Scattered References**

Please use one of these editions:

*Aristotelis Metaphysica*, ed. by W. Jaeger, Oxford, Oxford University Press (Greek text).

*Aristotle's Metaphysics* translated by W. D. Ross, can be found either in McKeon, *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press or at [classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.html)

*The Complete Works of Aristotle*, vol. 2, ed. by J. Barnes, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

*Aristotle, Metaphysics*, 2 vol., translated by H. Tredennick, Harvard, Harvard University Press (with the Greek text).

For a good introduction, a useful bibliography of contemporary scholarship and a glossary of Aristotelian terminology, see:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-metaphysics/>