

PHI 514 (Spring, 2019)- Hyperintensional Metaphysics

This seminar focuses on hyperintensional metaphysics, in particular on developing a hyperintensional theory of properties and relations, as well as on applying hyperintensional resources to address problems in meta-ethics, normative ethics and metaphysics. In week 1 we will consider various motivations for developing a hyperintensional metaphysics and then spell out an account of what a hyperintension is. In week 2 we look at hyperintensional theories of intrinsicity. Week 3 develops hyperintensional independence conditions and applies them to individuation problems in choice theory and value theory. Week 4 develops an account of conditional grounding and applies it to various difficulties in the theory of grounding, in particular the grounding of negative facts and universal generalisations. The account of conditional grounding is then used in week 5 to develop a relativised notion of intrinsicity that can deal with maximality conditions and the like. Week 6 develops a theory of stochastic grounding and applies it to fission cases and spectrum cases. Week 7 addresses the grounding problem and spells out the different options for dealing with underdetermination. Week 8 gives an account of grounding-theoretic versions of non-reductive realism. Week 9 identifies the connections between grounding, reduction and analysis. In weeks 10 and 11 we will develop a hyperintensional theory of properties and relations. Week 12 applies the grounding-theoretic apparatus to make sense of robustness in meta-ethics.