PHIL 280, Part 2: Modal Logic

This half of the course is an introduction to modal propositional and predicate logics. The emphasis is on philosophical questions arising within the semantics of modal logic concerning the existence of possible worlds and the nature of possible and necessary existents. It includes applications of modal logic to provide logics for time, duty, and conditionals.

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Lectures: Thursday 3pm, Friday 10am
Tutorial: Friday 11am.
Consultation: TBA
Texts: Book of readings from the bookshop.
Assessment: Participation (5%)(attendance, discussion), exercises (5%), essay (40%)(2500 – 3000 words, due Monday 19 June).

Course reader
Plantinga, Alvin (1973), ‘Transworld Identity or Worldbound Individuals?’, in Loux, ch. 7.

Lecture schedule
1. Overview, review of PC
   - Follow-up: Exercises on PC, due on Thursday 11th May.

2. The syntax and semantics of S5
   - Continue with Loux.
   - Follow-up: Exercises on S5, due on Thursday 25th May.

3. The languages of K, T, B, and S4
   - Follow-up: Exercises on K, T, B, S4, and S5, due on Thursday 25th May.
4. **The nature of possible worlds: Lewis**

5. **The problem of transworld individuals**

6. **In defense of transworld individuals**
   - Plantinga, Alvin (1973), ‘Transworld Identity or Worldbound Individuals?’, in Loux, ch. 7.

7. **Quantified modal logic**

8. **The Barcan Formula**
   - Williamson, Timothy (1998), ‘Bare Possibilia’, *Erkenntnis* 48, pp. 257-273. (Difficult, but worth the effort.)

9. **The problem of Merely possible objects**

10. **Actualism**

11. **Temporal logic**
   - Follow-up: Exercises on tense logic, to be discussed in tutorial.

12. **Deontic logic**
   - Follow-up: Exercises on deontic logic, to be discussed in tutorial.

**Additional reading**

As well as the readings in the course reader, you may also find the following helpful:


