

+++ title = "Persons" date = "2016-10-01" term = "Michaelmas 2016" part = "2" paper = "1: Metaphysics" tags = ["Part 1a", "Metaphysics", "Michaelmas 2016"] +++

Course description These four lectures will consider the nature and persistence of persons over time. A particular focus will be on the recent debate about Animalism. The lectures will cover the Part 2 syllabus materials on Persons for the paper on Metaphysics. Feel free to contact me at ms2416@cam.ac.uk if you have any suggestions, questions, or comments about this course.

General reading Those looking for an introduction may consult the Stanford Encyclopedia, which has a useful [entry on Animalism](#). An excellent collection of essays about Animalism is: Stephen Blatti and Paul F. Snowdon, eds. (2016), *Animalism: New Essays on Persons, Animals, & Identity*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Where and when Tuesday 1-2. Lecture Block Room 9

Lecture 1: The Life of a Person

Are you essentially alive? This lecture will discuss why, apart from *being alive*, the condition of *having a psychology* is thought to be necessary to being a person.

Suggested Reading Richard Wollheim (1984), 'Living,' in *The Thread of Life*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-32.

Lecture 2: Animalism Without Animals

What if we are animals? This lecture will consider the prospects of a theory of the persistence of persons in terms of an identity relation between the person and an animal. Special attention will be paid to the different versions of Animalism.

Suggested Reading Eric Olson (2003), 'An Argument for Animalism,' in *Personal Identity*. R. Martin and J. Barresi (eds.), Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 318–34.

Lecture 3: Remnant Persons

How much of a person's body can be safely removed? This lecture will consider some of the most pressing questions facing the Animalist theory, especially the way in which Animalism has difficulty accounting for leftover persons.

Suggested Reading Mark Johnston (2007), '“Human Beings” Revisited: My Body is Not an Animal,' in *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, vol. 3, D.W. Zimmerman (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 33–74.

Lecture 4: Dead Animals

What is the significance of death for the life and existence of a person? This lecture will consider the view that animals are not essentially alive.

Suggested Reading Paul Snowdon (2014), 'Animalism and the Lives of Human Animals,' *South J Philos* (52), 171–184. doi:10.1111/sjp.12074
