

Metaphysics Book Outline

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Here is the outline for the Metaphysics book. Please leave any feedback as comments on this document, or on the [Metaphysics book thread](#) in the Rebus Community forum.

Outline

Chapter 1: The ambiguity of metaphysics, with some historical notes

Metaphysics as a term is simply what is not physics. It may try to capture truly non-negotiable sectors of our conceptual schemes and/or cut reality at its joints.

Chapter 2: Finitism, infinitism, monism, dualism, pluralism (Counting 1)

Counting 1 (finitism, infinitism, monism, dualism, pluralism): is reality one thing or many (Eleatism?) If either is correct how to count them? Example from cartesianism: is mind a kind of its own or is it reducible to something else? Equally is “matter” a kind or not?

Chapter 3: The case of the mind: a puzzling problem

While Counting One may decide whether there is one substance (see e.g. Bento Spinoza or Nagarajuna) or more than one, people like Wittgenstein, e.g. would note that there is a self, a mind, a something or other call that mind, that is what the mind does in metaphysics. For someone like a full idealist, it does any philosophical work possible (cfr. Berkeleyan divine minds are the only ground of anything else).

Chapter 4: Fundamentality, or what grounds what

Are there principles to decide whether one ought to be an idealist or not?

Chapter 5: Case study: what if anything are numbers? (Counting 2)

Counting 2: what if anything are numbers? Supposing the sentence before this one is made up of five words, are there ONE or TWO objects (the sentence *and* the number five)? Three?

Chapter 6: Case study: metaphysics on a human scale asks whether there is free action

Metaphysics on a human scale asks whether there is free action. Brief treatment of free will in two versions. Can one will anything? Is what one can will subject to conditions?

Chapter 7: Case study: what are universals?

What are universals? Colors and shapes. This chapter can include an appendix on holes.

Chapter 8: Notes on methods: is there an experimental metaphysics?

Is there an experimental metaphysics? Is metaphysics ratiocination and inference together with imagination, or some of its claims are testable? The example of quantum mechanics can be discussed.

Chapter 9: The difficult contacts between religious and physicalistic metaphysics

Is god an entity? If so, what are the properties of some such entity?

Chapter 10: Topics for further study

The following topics are recommended:

- Causation: Consider a typical test case like Hume vs Pearl
- The elimination of metaphysics by way of... what? Carnap and his niece
- Is metaphysics the mirror onto which humans project languages? Which language? Some from T. Hofweber