

PHIL 293 / Fall 2021

ADVANCED SEMINAR IN LOGICAL THEORY: Re-Examination of Basic Laws of Logic: The Law of Identity and the Law of Non-Contradiction

Dr. Bo Mou

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Tuesday, 6:00 pm – 8:45 pm in SH 241

This seminar course as given in Fall 2021 is a re-examination of the structures and contents of the two basic laws of logic, the law of identity and the law of non-contradiction, in a holistic way. It is known that the law of non-contradiction has been challenged in recent decades but basically independently of re-examining the law of identity; however, without first understanding and capturing the refined structure and content of the law of identity, the nature, structure and content of the law of non-contradiction cannot be really understood and captured. This course will give a joint re-examination of them in view of their semantic and metaphysical foundations and of their modern logic presentations and in a cross-tradition engaging way.

Basic texts:

- (1) *Course Reader on the Law of Identity: Identity, Reference, Predication* (selected classical and modern resources on the issue).
- (2) *The Law of Non-Contradiction: New Philosophical Essays*, edited by Graham Priest, JC Beall, and Bradley Armour-Garb (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Appendix: “An Expanded Predicate Logic Account with Enhanced Identity Sign and Collective-Generic Operator and with Natural Semantic Interpretation”, in Bo Mou, *Cross-Tradition Engagement in Philosophy: A Constructive-Engagement Account* (Routledge, 2020), “Appendix 3” (391-407).

Prerequisite:

PHIL9, PHIL157 or instructor consent (due training in PHIL158 is a significant plus).