**Seminar: Modality**

**Description**

We will discuss several recent articles and books on modality.

**Requirements**

Either i) two short (10–15 page) papers, due 3/25 and 5/16, or ii) one term paper (20–30 pages), draft due 4/15, final version due 5/16. Please clear paper topics with us. We’ll suggest some topics in class.

**Bibliography**

Some readings on modality are listed here: [http://tedsider.org/teaching/modality_14/modality_bibliography.pdf](http://tedsider.org/teaching/modality_14/modality_bibliography.pdf).

**Tentative schedule and readings**

1/28 Intro to necessity, possible worlds, modal logic. Ayer (1936, chapter 4); Kripke (1972, Lectures 1 and 2); Plantinga (1974, chapter 1); Sider (2010, 133–43). Optional background reading: Melia (2003, chapters 1, 2); Quine (1953a,b)

*Could there have been something that doesn’t actually exist?*


2/11 Contingentism 1. Stalnaker (2012, chapters 1 and 2)

2/25 Contingentism 2. Stalnaker (2012, chapters 3 and 4)


3/18 catch-up

3/25 catch-up

**Miscellaneous**

4/8 Counterfactual approaches. Kment (2006); Williamson (2007, chapter 5)


5/6 Modality and time. Dorr and Goodman (2014)

**References**


— (2014). Norms and Necessity. MS.
