

Contents

Preface	xi
Preface to second edition	xiii
INTRODUCTION	1
Overview	1
The nature of metaphysics – some historical reflections	2
Metaphysics as category theory	11
Notes	18
Further reading	19
1 THE PROBLEM OF UNIVERSALS I: METAPHYSICAL REALISM	20
Overview	20
Realism and nominalism	21
The ontology of metaphysical realism	22
Realism and predication	25
Realism and abstract reference	31
Restrictions on realism – exemplification	35
Further restrictions – defined and undefined predicates	42
Are there any unexemplified attributes?	47
Notes	51
Further reading	52
2 THE PROBLEM OF UNIVERSALS II: NOMINALISM	54
Overview	54
The motivation for nominalism	54
Austere nominalism	60
Metalinguistic nominalism	73

CONTENTS

Trope theory	84
Notes	93
Further reading	95
 3 CONCRETE PARTICULARS I: SUBSTRATA, BUNDLES, AND SUBSTANCES	 96
Overview	96
Substratum and bundle theories	97
An objection to the bundle theory – subject-predicate discourse	105
Another objection to the bundle theory – the Identity of Indiscernibles	111
An argument for the substratum theory	116
Problems for the substratum theory	119
Aristotelian substances	123
Notes	135
Further reading	137
 4 PROPOSITIONS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS	 139
Overview	139
The traditional theory of propositions	140
Nominalism about propositions	150
Facts, states of affairs, and events	164
Notes	173
Further reading	175
 5 THE NECESSARY AND THE POSSIBLE	 176
Overview	176
Problems about modality	177
Possible worlds	182
Possible worlds nominalism	186
The metaphysics of possible worlds nominalism – David Lewis	191
Actualism and possible worlds – Alvin Plantinga	199
Notes	213
Further reading	214

CONTENTS

6	CONCRETE PARTICULARS II: PERSISTENCE THROUGH TIME	215
	Overview	215
	Two theories of persistence – endurantism and perdurantism	216
	Two theories of time – presentism and eternalism	220
	The ontology of perdurantism	226
	An argument for perdurantism – change in properties	231
	A second argument for perdurantism – change in parts	237
	Notes	247
	Further reading	249
7	THE CHALLENGE OF ANTI-REALISM	250
	Overview	250
	Two views about the nature of reality	251
	Dummett's anti-Realist	257
	The inscrutability of reference	266
	Putnam's anti-Realism	273
	Realism or anti-Realism?	279
	Notes	290
	Further reading	292
	Bibliography	293
	Index	299