



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY 367 Lec 01 "Science and Philosophy"

Winter Term 2016

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15 in MS 527

Course Outline

Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky

Phone: 403-220-3162

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30

(but not on Jan 12, Feb 9, and March 8), and by appointment.

Office: SS1204

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Course Description

We will discuss four important questions in the philosophy of science. What makes a theory a scientific theory? What is scientific objectivity? What does science tell us about human nature? Are scientific theories true?

Text: *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues* (Second Edition). 2012. Martin Curd and J. A. Cover (eds.), 1998, W.W. Norton and Company

Topics and Readings

What is Science?

1. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" – Popper (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Why Astrology is a Pseudoscience" – Thagard (in Curd and Cover)

What is Scientific Objectivity?

1. "Objectivity, Value Judgment, and Theory" – Kuhn (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Values and Objectivity" – Longino (in Curd and Cover)
3. "Gender and the Biological Sciences" – Okruhlik (in Curd and Cover)

Science and Human Nature

1. "On Human Nature" – David Hull (in *PSA: Proceedings of the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, Vol. 1986, Volume Two: Symposia and Invited Papers*, pp. 3-13, 1986. Available from the University Library e-journal collection.)
2. "Animalism and the Persistence of Human Organisms" – John Dupré (in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 52, Issue Supplement S1, pp. 6-23, September 2014. Available from the University Library e-journal collection.)

Are Scientific Theories True?

1. "The Ontological Status of Theoretical Entities" – Maxwell (in Curd and Cover)
2. "Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism" – van Fraassen (in Curd and Cover)
3. "Experimentation and Scientific Realism" – Hacking (in Curd and Cover)

Course Work

Discussion Question Preparations

- Five discussion question preparations are required. Each preparation should contain a one-sentence question from a reading we are discussing in class. The preparation should also contain a four to six sentence paragraph briefly explaining why you are raising that question.
- The question may be remedial, seeking an account of an important claim or argument in the reading that you could not follow. Or the question could be more critical in nature, alluding to a weakness in the paper. Or the question could be probing, identifying an issue that is raised by the reading or a possible implication of the reading.
- Each discussion question preparation must be handed in before we start discussing an article. Please hand in a hard copy of the preparation at the beginning of class when we start a reading. No preparations will be accepted after we start discussing an article.
- We will only read seven or eight articles in the class. So you will need to start writing and submitting your discussion preparations right away.

Tests

- There will be two in-class tests and a Registrar-scheduled final exam.
- Test and final questions will be drawn from our readings and class discussion.

Due Dates, Assignment Values, and Grade Scale

No late assignments will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

Discussion Preparations: 5 X 3 points each. See above for when these assignments are due.

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|---------|-----------|------------|
| Test #1 | 25 points | February 9 |
| Test #2 | 25 points | March 17 |
| Final | 35 points | TBA |

Final grades will be awarded as follows.

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|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 96-100 = A+ | 75-79 = B | 55-59 = C- |
| 90-95 = A | 70-74 = B- | 50-54 = D+ |
| 85-89 = A- | 65-69 = C+ | 45-49 = D |
| 80-84 = B+ | 60-64 = C | below 45 = F |

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Student's seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> . Students who require accommodation in

relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2016:

Jeremy Fantl (Undergrad Director) jfantl@ucalgary.ca

Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)