



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY 367 Lec 01
“Science and Philosophy”

Winter Term 2018

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00-12:50 in MS 217

Course Outline

Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky

Phone: 403-220-3162

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:30 & by appointment

Office: SS1204

Email: ereshefs@ucalgary.ca

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?

Prerequisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of various philosophical perspectives on the nature of science.
- Ability to critically interpret and analyze complex philosophical sources.
- Ability to engage in constructive oral and written argumentation.

Required 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 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 may only read eight articles in the class. So you should start writing and submitting your discussion preparations right away.
- You can hand in more than five discussion question preparations. For each additional preparation beyond five, your lowest grade for a preparation will be replaced with a higher additional preparation grade.

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.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| Test #1 | 25 points | February 5 |
| Test #2 | 25 points | March 14 |
| Final | 35 points | TBA |

Final grades will be awarded as follows.

| | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 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 |

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

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 Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but

also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>