



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 667 Lec 01 – Topics in Philosophy of Science
Topic #3: “Philosophy of Biology”**

Winter Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 14:00-15:15 in SA 129

Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky

Office: SS1232

Phone: 403-220-3162

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30-10:30 & 12:30-13:30

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Required Text

Philosophy of Biology: An Anthology, A. Rosenberg and R. Arp (eds.), 2010, Wiley-Blackwell.

Topics

Darwinism

Adaptationism

Biological Function and Teleology

Evolutionary Developmental Biology

Reductionism and the Biological Sciences

Species and Classification Problems

The Units of Selection Debate

Evaluation and Grading

Article Analyses

6 article analyses are required. Each analysis must be handed in before we discuss that article in class. In an analysis, describe a particular point or argument in the article. Then critically analyze that point, or pose a question about it, or provide an independent argument in support of that point. The article analysis is not an article summary, but an analysis of a portion of the article. The maximum length for an article analysis is 3 pages.

Article Presentation

Lead discussion for one article. Your task is not to summarize the article or present all the material in it. Your aim is to present some information about the article that will stimulate class discussion. Pick a particular argument that is central in the article. Briefly present that argument. Then start discussion by raising concerns, problems, or a supporting argument concerning that argument. Plan on leading the class for 10 to 15 minutes.

Workshop Report

Attend the Philosophy of Biology Workshop on February 5th. Then write a 2-3 page report on one of the presentations given at that workshop.

Paper Proposal

The paper proposal will consist of two parts. The first part will explain and motivate the focus of your research by answering these questions: i) What is the general topic area? ii) What are the main views on the topic? iii) What will your focus in that area be? The second part of the proposal

will contain a section-by-section outline of how you plan to construct your research paper. Dedicate a paragraph to describing each section of the proposed paper. This outline will serve as your research plan. The proposal should be no more than 5 pages long. Devote at least 2.5 pages to the first part of the proposal. Also attach a bibliography.

Paper

The word maximum length is 5,000 words (including footnotes, excluding the bibliography and any diagram notation).

Style and Citation Requirements

- All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies. Work must be double-spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Whenever you quote someone, provide the source and page numbers from that source. Here's an example: Dr. Black says that "all kittens are incredibly cute" (1993, p. 46). '(1993, p. 46)' refers to the article or book and page number where Dr. Black says that. Place detailed information about the article or book in your bibliography.
- Whenever you attribute a view or idea to a person, provide the source and page number where that claim is made. Here's an example: Dr. White likes kittens, but argues that puppies are far cuter (1994, p. 333).
- Use the following method for listing articles and books in your bibliography.
 - Smith, D. (1997) "A Theory of Cats," *Philosophy of Science* 44: 60-88.
 - Smith, D. (1998) *A New Theory of Cats*, Blackwell Publishers.
 - Smith, D. (1992) "A Theory of Great Cats," in J. Armstrong (ed.) *An Anthology on Theories of Great Cats*, Oxford University Press, 60-88.
 - Canto, P. (2006). "A Theoretical Discussion of Cats." <http://ohiou.edu/CatTheory>.The first entry is for an article, the second for a book, the third for a chapter in an edited book, and the fourth for a web site.

No Registrar-scheduled final will be given. No component is such that a passing grade on it is required to pass the course.

Due Dates and Grade Values

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|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Workshop Report | February 10 | 10 points |
| Paper Proposal | March 22 | 10 points |
| Article Analyses | All completed by March 31 | 5 points each (30 points total) |
| Article Presentation | - | 10 points |
| Paper | April 15 | 40 points |

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 |

BlackBoard and Email

Class information and handouts will be posted on BlackBoard. You'll be sent class announcements through email. The email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar, so make sure to check that account.