

PHIL/HPS 83801 Philosophy of Science
TTh 11:00-12:15
220 Malloy

Fall 2023

Prof. Don Howard
308 Malloy
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Office Hours: TTh 1:00-2:00

Required Texts:

Heather Douglas. *Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0822960263.

Janet Kourany. *Philosophy of Science after Feminism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 978-0199732616.

All other readings will be distributed by email.

Course Requirements: There will be a mid-term and a final examination, each an in-class, essay examination worth 25% of your final grade. A term paper (minimum 15 pages) will be worth 40% of your final grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be based on class participation.

One-minute Papers: At the end of every class session, we will stop a minute or two early, so as to give you the opportunity to write “one-minute papers.” These will be ungraded, but required of every student at the end of every class. Normally no more than two paragraphs long, these one-minute papers must contain answers to two questions: (1) What was the most important issue addressed in today’s class? (2) What issue remains most unclear in your mind at the end of today’s class?

Schedule:

Date: Topic:

Readings:

Aug. 22 Introduction to the Course

Aug. 24 The General Historical
Background

Philipp Frank, “Introduction: Historical Background”

Aug. 29 Mach and Positivism

Ernst Mach, “Introductory Remarks: Antimetaphysical”
and “The Guiding Principles of My Scientific Theory of
Knowledge and Its Reception by My Contemporaries”

Aug. 31 Conventionalism

Henri Poincaré, “Experiment and Geometry”; Pierre
Duhem, “Physical Theory and Experiment”

Sep. 5 Schlick, Reichenbach, and Carnap
before the Vienna Circle

Moritz Schlick, “Critical or Empiricist Interpretation of
Modern Physics?”

Sep. 7 " " "

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Sep. 12 Neo-Kantianism

Alan Richardson, “The Background to Early Carnap:
Themes from Kant” and “The Fundamentals of
Neo-Kantian Epistemology”

Sep. 14	Logicism and Formalism	Rudolf Carnap, "The Logicist Foundations of Mathematics"; John von Neumann, "The Formalist Foundations of Mathematics"
Sep. 19	The Founding of the Vienna Circle	Otto Neurath et al., "The Scientific Conception of the World: The Vienna Circle"; Moritz Schlick, "The Turning Point in Philosophy" and "The Future of Philosophy"
Sep. 21	The Protocol-Sentence Debate	Rudolf Carnap, "Protocol Statements and the Formal Mode of Speech"; Otto Neurath, "Protocol Statements"; Moritz Schlick, "On the Foundation of Knowledge"
Sep. 26	Verificationism and Falsificationism	Rudolf Carnap, "The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language"; Carl G. Hempel, "The Empiricist Criterion of Meaning"; Karl Popper, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations"
Sep. 28	The Left Wing of the Vienna Circle	Marx Wartofsky, "Positivism and Politics: The Vienna Circle as a Social Movement"; Otto Neurath, "Sociology in the Framework of Physicalism"
Oct. 3	Philosophy as Logical Syntax	Michael Friedman, "Analytic Truth in Carnap's Logical Syntax of Language"; Rudolf Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"
Oct. 5	The Observational/Theoretical Distinction	Carl G. Hempel, "The Theoretician's Dilemma"; Grover Maxwell, "The Ontological Status of Theoretical Entities"
Oct. 10	Scientific Realism	Ernan McMullin, "A Case for Scientific Realism"; Ian Hacking, "Experimentation and Realism"
Oct. 12	<i>Mid-term Examination</i>	
Oct. 16- Oct. 20	<i>Fall Break</i>	
Oct. 24	Constructive Empiricism	Bas C. van Fraassen, "Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism" and "To Save the Phenomena"
Oct. 26	The Natural Ontological Attitude	Arthur Fine, "The Natural Ontological Attitude" and "And Not Anti-realism Either"
Oct. 31	Structural Realism	Anjan Chakravartty, "Structuralism as a Form of Scientific Realism"

Nov. 2	Explanation	Ernest Nagel, “The Deductive Pattern of Explanation”; Carl G. Hempel, “Inductive–Statistical Explanation”
Nov. 7	The Nature of Scientific Laws	Ernest Nagel, “The Logical Character of Scientific Laws”; Fred I. Dretske, “Laws of Nature”
Nov. 9	Theories of Confirmation	Carl G. Hempel, “Studies in the Logic of Confirmation”
Nov. 14	The New Riddle of Induction	Nelson Goodman, “The New Riddle of Induction”
Nov. 16	Dewey, Quine, and Epistemological Naturalism	W.V.O. Quine, “Two Dogmas of Empiricism,” “Epistemology Naturalized”
Nov. 21	Feminist Science Theory	Janet Kourany, <i>Philosophy of Science after Feminism</i> , Chapters 1-3.
Nov. 23	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
Nov. 28	Feminist Science Theory	Janet Kourany, <i>Philosophy of Science after Feminism</i> , Chapters 4-5.
Nov. 30	Science and Values	Heather Douglas, <i>Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal</i> , Chapters, 1-3
Dec 5	" " "	Heather Douglas, <i>Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal</i> , Chapters, 4-5
Dec 7	" " "	Heather Douglas, <i>Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal</i> , Chapters, 6-8
Dec. 14	<i>Final Examination 10:30 am- 12:30 pm</i>	
Dec. 15	<i>Term Paper Due</i>	