

## **Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (225)**

01:730:225 Section 1

TTh4 (1:10-2:30pm)

Frelinghuysen Hall A2

### **Instructor:**

Nick Tourville

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Office Hours TBA

I'm also available by request. Email me to set up an appointment.

My office is #516 in the Gateway Building (106 Somerset Street).

### **Overview:**

This course is a broad introduction to the philosophy of science. It is primarily about the nature of science: scientific methodology, the metaphysical implications of science, and more. We will read Peter Godfrey-Smith's *Theory and Reality*, which provides a historical introduction to the field.

### **Required Text:**

Peter Godfrey-Smith. *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

### **Grading:**

Attendance/Participation: 10%

Paper: 10%

Short Assignments: 10%

Midterm exam: 30%

Final exam: 40%

### **Approximate Schedule:**

*This syllabus is subject to change. See the GoogleDoc version for updates:*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cvfn73GMqQVu4JfLRoVMehmHUpKGUqoFGp1GG07VmVo/edit?usp=sharing>

Week 1 (1/20, 1/22): Chapter 1- Introduction

Week 2 (1/27, 1/29): Chapter 2- Logic Plus Empiricism

Week 3 (2/3, 2/5): Chapter 3- Induction and Confirmation

Week 4 (2/10, 2/12): Chapter 4- Popper: Conjecture and Refutation

Week 5 (2/17, 2/19): Chapter 5- Kuhn and Normal Science

Week 6 (2/24, 2/26): Chapter 6- Kuhn and Revolutions

Week 7 (3/3, 3/5): Chapter 7- Lakatos, Laudan, Feyerabend, and Frameworks

Week 8 (3/10, 3/12): Chapter 8- The Challenge from Sociology of Science

~~Week 9: Spring Break~~

Week 10 (3/24, 3/26): Chapter 9- Feminism and Science Studies

Week 11 (3/31, 4/2): Chapters 10/11

Week 12 (4/7, 4/9): Chapter 12- Scientific Realism

Week 13 (4/14, 4/16): Chapter 13- Explanation

Week 14 (4/21, 4/23): Chapter 14- Bayesianism and Modern Theories of Evidence

Week 15 (4/28, 4/30): Chapter 15- Empiricism, Naturalism, and Scientific Realism?

Final Exam (5/9): 8-11am