

Course number: PHIL 212W

Title: Philosophy of Science

Credits: 3

Department: Philosophy

Contact Person: Donald Baxter

Catalog Copy: 212W. Philosophy of Science

Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: At least one of PHIL 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106. Open to sophomores or higher.

Issues concerning the nature and foundations of scientific knowledge, including, for example, issues about scientific objectivity and progress.

W Criteria : 1. The writing assignments in 212W consist of argumentative essays addressing central issues in the philosophy of science. They generally require explaining and critiquing views about the nature of scientific explanation, or the role of induction in scientific inquiry, or the reality of unobservable entities, or the objectivity of scientific methods. Thus the topics of the writing assignments tie into the content of the lectures and readings. The essays require lucid exposition and clear argumentation, thus practicing the skills necessary for philosophical writing and writing in general. The assignments would ordinarily consist of three essays of five-pages apiece, each redrafted for content and clarity. The writing component would normally determine 75-85% of the final grade. (The remainder is determined by performance on a final examination and participation during in-class discussions and presentations.)

2. Writing instruction includes detailed feedback on written assignments, presentation of papers in class, peer-review sessions during which students comment on each other's papers, and readings and discussions on the craft of writing argumentative essays.

3. Each 5 pages paper will be revised in light of instructor's comments and/or feedback from fellow students.

Role of Grad Students: Graduate students do not at present participate in the teaching of PHIL 212.