

Philosophy 455

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

Professor Batterman

This course will serve as an introduction to several issues in the philosophy of science. In particular we will concentrate on the following methodological issues: Various problems of induction, falsificationism, the nature of scientific revolutions, the problem of underdetermination, the issues of scientific realism.

Text:

The text for the class is *Understanding Philosophy of Science*, by James Ladyman (Routledge, 2002). Chapter references below are to this text.

Requirements:

1. Midterm (4/29/04) 30%
2. Paper (Due 6/1/04) 35%
3. Final (Thursday 6/10/04, 1:30pm - 3:18 pm) 35%

A note about **PLAGIARISM**.

Staff:

Batterman's Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4pm, and by appointment.

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Tentative Schedule

Week I: 3/30, 4/1

Induction and Inductivism:

Reading: Introduction and Chapter 1.

Week II: 4/6, 4/8

The Problem of Induction:

Reading: Chapter 2.

Week III: 4/13 , 4/15

Falsificationism and the Duhem Problem:

Read Chapter 3.

Week IV: 4/20, 4/22

Scientific Revolutions and Scientific Rationality:

Read Chapter 4.

Week V: 4/27, 4/29 [**Midterm Exam**]

Scientific Realism and Logical Positivism:

Read Chapter 5.

Week VI: 5/4, 5/6

Scientific Realism and Logical Positivism:

Read Chapter 5.

Week VII: 5/11, 5/13

Underdetermination of Theories:

Read Chapter 6.

Week VIII: 5/18, 5/20

Explanation and Inference to the Best Explanation:

Read Chapter 7.

Week IX: 5/25, 5/27

Realism about What?:

Read Chapter 8.

Week X: 6/1 [**Paper Due**] **Suggested Topics**, 6/3

Review

Final Exam:

Thursday, June 10, 1:30pm - 3:18pm.

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