

Syllabus: Phil-165, Fall 2012  
**Enquiry: Science & Philosophy**

Instructor: Richard Fry

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Office Hours: Thursday, 5:00-6:00PM in the  
Philosophy Department (2nd Floor of New North),  
and by appointment

Class meeting time: TR, 6:30-7:45PM  
Meeting place: Walsh 392

**Course Description:**

While the enterprises of philosophy and science are importantly different, they are also fundamentally intertwined in a way that deeply influences our conception of the world. In this course, we will examine how science and philosophy are related and how this affects us.

Why think that abstract philosophical reflection and scientific investigation of the real world intersect? The first section of the course considers how philosophical enquiry and scientific enquiry have affected each other throughout their histories. We'll explore the connections between contemporary philosophy of mind, computation theory and psychological and physiological research; the development of optics and Early Modern philosophy; and the question of causation.

In the second part of the course, we ask how the intersection of science and philosophy influences, or should influence, our daily lives. One way we'll address this topic is by discussing the notions of species, sex and gender in philosophy, biology and our everyday intuitions.

Our overall goal is to clarify how we can and do navigate the world in light of the interrelation of these two ways of thinking. We'll do this by exploring the differences, similarities and mutual influence of our scientific and philosophical thinking.

**Required Texts:**

All required readings will be provided through the course blackboard site.

**The Honor Code and Plagiarism:**

You are expected and required to uphold standards of academic honesty in this course. Plagiarism of ideas or words is unacceptable. Familiarize yourself with what counts as plagiarism:

<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/system/53377.html>

The Honor Council (<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/>) adjudicates cases of suspected academic dishonesty. In effort to uphold this university's high standards, I will submit any and all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Honor Council, who will investigate. Confirmed academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course.

## Policies

**Preparedness:** You are responsible for being prepared for class. This includes reading assigned material, thinking about it so that you can ask questions, and arriving on time.

**Attendance:** Only one unexcused absence will be allowed, after this I will deduct points from your attendance grade. Please contact me if you're going to be absent for any reason.

**Attitude:** You are responsible for comporting yourself in an appropriate manner. This includes both actively participating in discussion as well as treating other members of the class with respect and courtesy. Laptop use may be prohibited at any time at my discretion, so pay attention to me and to your classmates.

**Due Dates:** You are responsible for turning in your work on time. Each 24 hours or portion thereof that a piece of written work is late will result in the subtraction of 1/3 letter grade. All work more than a week late will receive an F.

Under some circumstances, it is possible to get an extension for written work because of illness, injury or family emergency. If you need an extension or reassignment, email me *as soon as possible* with a brief description of your situation and how long you think it will take you to resolve the issue. We will then work out a timeframe for the extension/reassignment. Extensions must be requested before the assignment is due.

**Grades:** if you believe the work you submitted deserves a different grade than it received, you may ask *in writing* for reconsideration. Your request must be submitted *within one week*, but no sooner than *two days after* the assignment is returned. Your written request *must explain why* you believe the work deserves a different grade. Most appeals will not result in a change of grade, but if a change is made please note that the grade may be either higher or lower.

## Assignments and Assessment

### Attendance/Participation (10%)

Attend class regularly for these ten free points! Lose one point for every unexcused absence after the first, for sleeping in class, and other similar preparedness violations.

### Discussion Questions (10%)

For each class meeting, there will be a group assigned to send me discussion questions *no later than 12:00 midnight the day before class*. These questions should engage with the material, either by interrogating it or by trying to reconstruct the reasoning apparent in it. I will use these to structure the class discussion for that class period.

### Short papers (35%)

You will write **three short (2pp) papers** for this class, the best two will count toward your final grade. It is up to you when to write these papers and what to write them on. (I will try to point out possible topics as we move through the course and am available for consultation.) The only restriction is that each short paper must be about material that we are currently discussing (or have discussed during the previous week).

There are three deadlines spread throughout the semester; you must turn in one paper *before* each of these deadlines, but you may turn them in as early as you like. I will do my best to return these papers to you within a week. The rubric for these short papers will be made available online and these papers should be submitted by email.

Your **best** short paper will count for **20%** of your final grade, your **2nd best** will count for **15%**.

### Final paper proposal (10%)

A one-page final paper proposal is due by November 29th, though you may turn it in earlier. It should outline the issue you plan to tackle for your final paper.

### Final paper (35%)

A final, 4-6pp paper will be due on the day scheduled for the final exam. This paper will be based on your paper proposal.

*More details for these assignments will be distributed during the term.*

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Tuesday	Thursday
04 Sept - <i>Kinds of Arguments &amp; Scientific Reasoning</i> <b>How do Scientists and Philosophers Reason?</b> Read: Bacon, Newton <i>(All readings listed are <u>likely</u>; check Blackboard.)</i>	06 Sept - <i>Philosophy &amp; Psychology</i> <b>What's a mind?</b> Read: Pryor, Horban
11 Sept - <i>Philosophy &amp; Psychology</i> <b>History of Philosophy of Philosophy of Mind</b> Read: Descartes, Descartes, Ryle <i>Questions from Group Awesome</i>	13 Sept - <i>Philosophy &amp; Psychology</i> <b>Behaviorism &amp; Minds</b> Read: Skinner, Lycan, SEP <i>Group Incredible</i>
18 Sept - <i>Philosophy &amp; Psychology</i> <b>Cognitive Science</b> Read: Nadel & Piatelli-Palmarini, Thagard, Dennett <i>Group Magnificent</i>	20 Sept - <i>Animal Minds</i> <b>No Minds at All?</b> Read: Aristotle, Descartes, Descartes <i>Group Amazing</i>
25 Sept - <i>Animal Minds</i> <b>Maybe a little?</b> Read: Locke, Locke, Leibniz, Hume <i>Group Superb</i>	27 Sept - <i>Animal Minds</i> <b>Maybe, Maybe not</b> Read: Davidson, Dennett <i>Deadline for short paper #1</i> <i>Group Splendid</i>
02 Oct - <i>Animal Minds</i> <b>Contemporary Scientific Research</b> Read: Clayton & Emery, Grodzinski & Clayton, van der Vaart et al. <i>Group Awesome</i>	04 Oct - <i>Animal Minds</i> <b>Contemporary Scientific Research (cont.)</b> Read: Shettleworth, Shettleworth, SEP <i>Group Incredible</i>
09 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>Scientific Explanations</b> Read: Hempel, Friedman <i>Group Magnificent</i>	11 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>More on Explanation</b> Read: Salmon, Van Fraassen <i>Group Amazing</i>
16 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>Explanation and Laws</b> Read: Goodman <i>Group Superb</i>	18 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>Laws of Nature</b> Read: Lange <i>Group Splendid</i>

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23 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>Math &amp; Indispensability Arguments</b> Read: Quine <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Awesome</i></div>	25 Oct - <i>Philosophy of Science</i> <b>Indispensable?</b> Read: Carnap, Azzouni <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Incredible</i></div>
30 Oct - <i>Kinds</i> <b>History of Kinds</b> Read: Aristotle, Locke, Locke <i>Deadline for short paper #2</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Magnificent</i></div>	01 Nov - <i>Kinds</i> <b>The Analytic Approach</b> Read: Quine, Slater & Borghini <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Amazing</i></div>
06 Nov - <i>Kinds</i> <b>Current Work</b> Read: Dupré, Boyd <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Superb</i></div>	08 Nov - <i>Species</i> <b>Essentialism &amp; Natural Selection</b> Read: Hull, Sober <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Splendid</i></div>
13 Nov - <i>Species</i> <b>Essences &amp; Individuals</b> Read: Ereshevsky, Hull <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Awesome</i></div>	15 Nov - <i>Species</i> <b>Reality of Species</b> Read: Dupré, Buss <i>Deadline for short paper #3</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Incredible</i></div>
20 Nov - <i>Sex &amp; Gender</i> <b>What is sex? What is gender?</b> Read: APA Pamphlet on Sexual Orientation, APA Pamphlet on Gender Expression, Dupré <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Magnificent</i></div>	22 Nov - Canceled for Thanksgiving
27 Nov - <i>Sex &amp; Gender</i> <b>Sexes: How many and how do we know?</b> Read: Blackless et al., Sax, Fausto-Sterling, Dreger <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Amazing</i></div>	29 Nov - <i>Sex &amp; Gender</i> <b>Gender: a Reality? By what standard?</b> Read: SEP, Hale, Kessler & McKenna, Haslanger <i>Final paper proposal due</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Superb</i></div>
04 Dec - <i>Sex &amp; Gender</i> <b>...and the Brain</b> Read: Koerth-Barker, Fine, Fausto-Sterling <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Group Splendid</i></div>	06 Dec - <i>Sex &amp; Gender</i> <b>What to do now?</b> Read: TBA (Final paper due during the scheduled final exam)

Resources: Phil-165, Fall 2012  
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*Philosophical Resources*

**The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:** <http://plato.stanford.edu>

**Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy:** <http://www.iep.utm.edu>

**The Philosopher's Index:** accessible at [library.georgetown.edu](http://library.georgetown.edu), through "Articles and Databases."

**Philpapers.org:** <http://philpapers.org>

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*Academic Resources*

**Academic Resource Center:** Leavey center Suit 335

<http://ldss.georgetown.edu> and [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)

The Academic Resource Center arranges accommodations for students with disabilities and provides assistance with study skills.

**Writing Center:** 217A Lauinger Library

<http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu> and [writingcenter@georgetown.edu](mailto:writingcenter@georgetown.edu)

The Writing Center provides one-on-one assistance with academic writing skills. Their website also has many useful links for improving your writing.

**Scholarly Research and Academic Integrity**

Resources are available at <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/academic-integrity/refresher-tipsheet>

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*Health and Wellness Resources*

**Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS):** Eastern Side of Darnall Hall

(202)687-6985 and <http://caps.georgetown.edu>

24-hour doctor on-call: (202) 444-PAGE

CAPS is a primary mental health resource assisting students in overcoming difficulties that interfere with the attainment of their personal and educational goals.

**Health Education Services:** 207 Village C West

(202)687-8949 and <http://healthed.georgetown.edu>

Health Education Services is comprised of health professionals who are available to help students deal with a range of health issues, including pregnancy, alcohol and drug issues, eating disorders, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and stress management. All services are individualized, confidential, and free for students.

**Student Health Center:** Ground Floor, Darnall Hall

Appointments: (202)687-2200; General info: (202)687-4500

<http://shc.georgetown.edu>