Phil 226-51: Philosophy of Science
TTh 10:30-11:45pm
RH 301

Description: This course is concerned with value and objectivity in science: Is science value-laden, and if so, how? Can science do without values? What kinds of values should science be guided by? What happens to objectivity in science if science cannot and should not be value-free? Key themes are realism/anti-realism, method, and explanation. Readings include classic and contemporary readings.

Main texts:

Hacking, I. Representing and Intervening: introductory topics in the philosophy of natural science (Cambridge: CUP, 1983)


Requirements:

Class participation: Come prepared for class, having read all assigned readings at least twice. Short argument analysis exercise, due Friday 5, by 5pm. [2 pp.]
Midterm paper, due Friday March 4, by 5pm. [5-6 pp.]
Final paper: outline due April 21; final due Tue May 3, by 5pm. [7-8 pp.]

Grading:

Participation (10%); argument analysis (10%); midterm paper (30%); final paper (50%). All assignments must be completed to pass the course. Late papers get penalized one third of a letter grade for each day past due date, unless there is a documented medical emergency.
Class schedule (tentative):

**Realism**

Jan 20: Introduction

Jan 25: Hacking, ch.1
Jan 27: Hacking, ch. 2

Feb 1: Hacking, ch. 3
Feb 3: Kuhn, chs. I-IV

**Feb 4:** **Argument analysis due by 5pm**

Feb 8: Kuhn, chs. V-X
Feb 10: Kuhn, chs. XI-XIII, Postscript

Feb 15: Library research exercise
Feb 17: Responses to Kuhn:
Hacking, ch. 4 & 5,
Israel Scheffler “Vision and Revolution: A Postscript on Kuhn” *Philosophy of Science* 1972 (JSTOR)

Feb 22: Incommensurability and meaning:
Hacking, ch. 6
Hilary Putnam “The Meaning of ‘Meaning’”
Feb 24: Hacking, ch. 8
Imre Lakatos, selections from *Philosophical Papers*

March 1: Paul Feyerabend, selections from *Against Method*

March 3: Hacking, "Break"

**March 4:** **Midterm paper due by 5pm**

March 8: Spring vacation
March 10: Spring vacation
March 15: Spring vacation
March 17: Spring vacation

**Method and Explanation**

March 22: Hempel, chs. 1-2
March 24: Hempel, chs. 3-4

March 29: Hempel, chs. 5-6
March 31: Hempel, chs. 7-8

April 5: Longino, ch. 1
April 7: Longino, ch. 2
April 12:  Longino, ch. 3
April 14:  Longino, ch. 4
April 19:  Longino, ch. 5
April 21:  Longino, ch. 6

**Outline of final paper due**

April 26:  Longino, chs. 7-8
April 28:  Longino, ch. 9
**May 3:**  Longino, ch. 10

**Final paper due by 5pm**

Academic accommodations are available for **students with documented disabilities**. Please schedule an appointment with the instructor early in the semester to discuss any accommodation that may be needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Disability and Support Services (ext. 7584) as indicated in their accommodation letter.