

Please note: This is only a provisional draft of the course outline. It is intended to give you a sense of what the course will be about. Readings and important course dates may change before the semester begins.

PHI L 220 A01 - Fall 2018
Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 101) UC Berkeley
Wednesday, 3:00-5:00

It is expected that students will prepare for and attend class regularly. Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course early in the semester.

Grading System: Letter Grades: Grade Point

90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior for subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent (September 2018) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tentative Schedule of Readings

Week 1 (September 5 & 7): Introduction and Basics

No Readings for This Week

Week 2 (September 11, 12 & 14): Demarcating Science from Non-Science

Readings:

- Popper, K. "Science: Conjectures and Refutations",
- Thagard, P. "Why Astrology Is a Pseudoscience",

Week 3 (September 18, 19 & 21): Scientific Explanation & The D-N Account

Readings:

- Hempel, C. & Oppenheim, P. "The Logic of Explanation"

Week 4 (September 25, 26 & 28): Scientific Explanation & The Mechanist Account

Readings:

- Okasha, "The Problem of Symmetry & The Problem of Irrelevance"
- Craver, C. (2006). "When Mechanistic Models Explain"

Week 5 (October 2, 3 & 5): Scientific Realism vs Scientific Anti-Realism (Part 1)

Midterm 1: Oct 5th

Readings:

- Okasha, "Realism & Anti-Realism"
- Hacking, I. "What is Scientific Realism?"

Week 6 (October 9, 10 & 12): Scientific Realism vs Scientific Anti-Realism (Part 2)

Readings:

- Van Fraassen, B. "Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism"
- Musgrave, A. "The Ultimate Argument for Scientific Realism"

Week 7 (October 16, 17 & 19): Reductionism vs Anti-Reductionism (Part 1)

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Readings:

- Oppenheim & Putnam, "The Unity of Science as a Working Hypothesis"
- Churchlands, "Intertheoretic Reduction: A Neuroscientist's Field Guide"

Week 8 (October 23, 24 & 26): Reductionism vs Anti-Reductionism (Part 2)

Readings:

- Fodor, "Special Sciences"

Week 9 (October 30, October 31 & November 2): Science and the Search for Laws

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