UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 467 Lec 01
PROBLEMS IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
Fall Term 2013

Course Outline

Lectures: TuTh 14:00-15:15 SS541
Instructor: Marc Ereshefsky
Office: SS1248A
Phone: 403-220-3162
Email: ereshefs@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-13:00, and by appointment.

Course Description
The course will focus on philosophical accounts of scientific explanation. We will explore prominent theories of explanation, as well a particularly problematic area of explanation: historical explanation.

Evaluation and Grading
Two tests, one paper, and four articles analyses are required. No Registrar scheduled final will be given.

Tests: Test questions will be distributed in advance. Questions will be drawn from class readings and discussion. The tests will be given during lecture on **October 15** and **November 21**. Each test is worth 25 points.

Paper: Paper topics will be assigned. Topics will be drawn from class readings and class discussion. Maximum length for papers is 6 pages, not including endnotes and bibliography. The paper is due on **December 9** and is worth 30 points.

Article Analyses: Each analysis must be handed in **before** we discuss the article in class. In an analysis, describe a particular point or argument in the article, not the entire article. Then critically analyze that point, or pose a question about it, or provide an independent argument in support of that point. An article analysis is not an article summary, but an analysis of a portion of an article. The maximum length for an article analysis is 2 pages. Each analysis is worth 5 points.

- No make-up tests will be given or late papers accepted without an appropriate excuse.
- Final grades will be awarded as follows.

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

Style and Citation Requirements
- All written work for this course should be submitted as hard copies. Work must be double-spaced, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- Whenever you quote someone, provide the source and page numbers from that source. Here's an example: Dr. Black writes that "all kittens are incredibly cute" (1993, p. 46).
  '(1993, p. 46)' refers to the article or book and page number where Dr. Black writes that. Place detailed information about the article or book in your bibliography.

- Whenever you attribute a view or idea to a person, provide the source and page number where that claim is made. Here's an example: Dr. White likes kittens, but argues that puppies are far cuter (1994, p. 333).
- Use the following method for listing articles and books in your bibliography.

  Smith, D. (1997) "A Theory of Cats," *Philosophy of Science* 44: 60-88.

  Smith, D. (1998) *A New Theory of Cats*, Blackwell Publishers.

  Smith, D. (1992) "A Theory of Great Cats," in J. Armstrong (ed.) *An Anthology on Theories of Great Cats*, Oxford University Press, 60-88.

  Canto, P. (2006). "A Theoretical Discussion of Cats." http://ohiou.edu/CatTheory

The first entry is for an article, the second for a book, the third for a chapter in an edited book, and the fourth for a web site.

BlackBoard and Email

Class information and handouts will be posted on BlackBoard. You'll be sent class announcements through email. The email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar, so make sure to check that account.

Readings

Articles and chapters can be found in electronic journals and books available through the University Library.

Hempel, C. and Oppenhiem, P. 1948 "Studies in the Logic of Explanation," *Philosophy of Science* 15,135-175. **Read only pages 135-146 and 152-157**

Salmon, W. 1978 "Why Ask 'Why?'? An Inquiry Concerning Scientific Explanation," *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association* 51, pp. 683-705.

Cartwright, N. 1980 "Truth Doesn't Explain Much," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 17, No. 2, April, pp. 159-163

Van Fraassen, B. "The Pragmatics of Explanation." In J. Kourany (ed.), *Scientific Knowledge*, 1987, pp. 65-76. Originally published in van Fraassen 1980 *The Scientific Image*, pp. 103-106, 111-113.

Woodward, J. 2001 "Laws and Explanation in Biology: Invariance is the Kind of Stability that Matters," *Philosophy of Science* 68, pp. 1-20.

Hempel, C. 1942 "The Function of General Laws in History," *Journal of Philosophy* 39, pp. 35-48.

Gallie, W. 1955 "Explanations in the Historic and Genetic Sciences," *Mind* 64, pp. 160-180.

Beatty, J. 2006 "Replaying Life's Tape," *The Journal of Philosophy* 103, pp. 336-362.

Desjardins, E. 2011 "Historicity and experimental evolution," *Biology and Philosophy* 26, pp. 339-364.

Cleland, C. 2011 "Prediction and Explanation in Historical Natural Science," *British Journal of Philosophy of Science*, 62, pp. 551-582.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic office, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the

Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/ for further information.

Blackboard Help
Go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning –** For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website http://phil.ucalgary.ca or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy
The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives
The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk
Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building
and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2013:
Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca
Lorraine Markotic lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca
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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact
Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)