Introduction to the Philosophy of Science (225)
01:730:225 Section 1
TTh4 (1:10-2:30pm)
Frelinghuysen Hall A2

Instructor:
Nick Tourville
tourville.nicholas@gmail.com
Office Hours TBA
I’m also available by request. Email me to set up an appointment.
My office is #516 in the Gateway Building (106 Somerset Street).

Overview:
This course is a broad introduction to the philosophy of science. It is primarily about the nature
of science: scientific methodology, the metaphysical implications of science, and more. We will
read Peter Godfrey-Smith’s Theory and Reality, which provides a historical introduction to the
field.

Required Text:

Grading:
Attendance/Participation: 10%
Paper: 10%
Short Assignments: 10%
Midterm exam: 30%
Final exam: 40%

Approximate Schedule:
This syllabus is subject to change. See the GoogleDoc version for updates:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cvfn73GMqQVu4JfLRoVMehmHUpKGuqoFGp1GG07VmVo/edit?usp=sharing

Week 1 (1/20, 1/22): Chapter 1- Introduction
Week 2 (1/27, 1/29): Chapter 2- Logic Plus Empiricism
Week 3 (2/3, 2/5): Chapter 3- Induction and Confirmation
Week 4 (2/10, 2/12): Chapter 4- Popper: Conjecture and Refutation
Week 5 (2/17, 2/19): Chapter 5- Kuhn and Normal Science
Week 6 (2/24, 2/26): Chapter 6- Kuhn and Revolutions
Week 7 (3/3, 3/5): Chapter 7- Lakatos, Laudan, Feyerabend, and Frameworks
Week 8 (3/10, 3/12): Chapter 8- The Challenge from Sociology of Science
Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10 (3/24, 3/26): Chapter 9- Feminism and Science Studies
Week 11 (3/31, 4/2): Chapters 10/11
Week 12 (4/7, 4/9): Chapter 12- Scientific Realism
Week 13 (4/14, 4/16): Chapter 13- Explanation
Week 14 (4/21, 4/23): Chapter 14- Bayesianism and Modern Theories of Evidence
Week 15 (4/28, 4/30): Chapter 15- Empiricism, Naturalism, and Scientific Realism?
Final Exam (5/9): 8-11am