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PHIL 2301  
Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

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Winter 2018  
Course Outline

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## I. Admin

Instructor: Gabriele Contessa

Office: PA 3A43

Office Hours: Fridays, 1:35pm-2:25pm or by appointment

E-mail: [gabriele\\_contessa@carleton.ca](mailto:gabriele_contessa@carleton.ca)

[Course Schedule](#)

[cuLearn](#)

[Poll Everywhere Registration](#)

## II. Description

This course is an introduction to the philosophy of science. We'll look into some central philosophical questions about science, its aims, and its methods, such as 'How are theories evaluated?', 'Does science aim at truth?', 'What role do values play in science?'

## III. Prerequisites

Registration in an Honors or Combined Honors Philosophy program, the Philosophy, Ethics and Public Affairs program, or permission by the Department.

## IV. Readings

Please see the Course Schedule for the latest reading schedule.

Our background readings for the first part of the term will be from T. S. Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution: Planetary Astronomy in the Development of Modern Thought*, Harvard University Press, 1957, which can be purchased through the Carleton University Bookstore. All other readings are available through cuLearn.

## V. Grading

**a.** Three In-Class Tests (Test 1 worth 10% of your final grade, Test 2 and Test 3 worth 15% each, for a total of 40%);

**b.** Three Assignments (the best of which worth 25% of your final grade, the other two 12.5%, for a total of 50%).

**c.** Attendance and Participation (worth 10% of your final grade)

Test dates and assignment deadlines can be found on the Course Schedule.

Please note that all final grades are subject to the approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

## VI. Policies

**Attendance.** Class attendance is required and it is critical to success in this course. If, for any reason you are absent, you are responsible for

finding out what has been covered in class and for any course-related announcements. If unforeseen circumstances are preventing you from attending class regularly, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible. Please be aware that, if you don't attend class regularly and pay attention in class, you are very unlikely to do well in this course!

**Readings.** You are responsible for consulting the Course Schedule to find the readings for that class and for reading each of them carefully and attentively before each class. Please be aware that, if you don't do the readings, you are very unlikely to do well in this course.

**Copyright.** Carleton University is committed to compliance in all copyright matters. Noncompliance is a violation of the Canadian Copyright Act. In addition to any actions that might be taken by any copyright owner or its licensing agent, the University will take steps against any breach of this policy. In Canada, copyright for a work is given automatically to the creator of the work. The work does not need to be marked or declared as copyrighted in order to be copyrighted. The majority of works in Canada are copyrighted. It is important for students to understand and respect copyright. Copyright determines your usage rights for a particular work, which includes textbooks, web pages, videos and images, both electronic and hard copy. Students may not photocopy entire or major portions of books or other works, even if it is only for their personal use. Fair dealing makes some allowances for copying small portions of works. See Carleton's Fair Dealing Policy for more information. If journal articles or portions of works are available through the library, either as hard copies or electronically, students may make a single copy for their personal use. Students may not distribute copies of works that are under copyright. For more information, please see the Carleton's Fair Dealing Policy and the library's copyright website: [www.library.carleton.ca/copyright](http://www.library.carleton.ca/copyright).

**Communication.** You are responsible for checking regularly your Carleton e-mail account and the cuLearn course page for course-related messages and announcements. You are also responsible for checking regularly the Course Schedule for any changes or updates.

**Assignments.** Instructions for each assignment will be sent to your Carleton e-mail account about two weeks before the assignment is due. *Please follow those instructions very carefully, as failure to do so may result in penalties.* If you have not received the instructions for an assignment two weeks prior to the deadline for that assignment, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to let me know.

The deadline for each assignment is at 11:59pm of the day the assignment is due (see Course Schedule for assignment deadlines). Unless I have granted you an extension in writing (see below), 5 points will be subtracted from your grade for every day the assignment is late. Late assignments will be marked but not commented upon in writing. If you wish to receive feedback on a late assignment, please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

Each assignment must be exclusively the work of the individual student submitting it. All sources must be properly referenced. Please be aware that plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration are very serious academic offences (see below) and that I am bound to report any suspected academic offence directly to the Office of the Dean.

*Please note that failing to submit an assignment will result in a 0% on that assignment.*

**Drafts.** While I am happy to answer any general questions about you might have about your assignments, please note that I am not able to provide any feedback on draft assignments.

**Tests.** Please note that, barring extraordinary circumstances (e.g. documented illness or emergency), *missing a test will result in a 0% on that test.*

**Extensions.** Extensions will be granted only in *extraordinary* circumstances (e.g. documented illness or family emergency) *and* only if the extension is requested *in writing before* the assignment deadline. If you think you will need an extension, please contact me as soon as possible by e-mail.

**Academic Integrity.** You are responsible for ensuring that you understand the nature of academic offences (such as plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration), as defined in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#), and to avoid both committing them and aiding or abetting academic offences perpetrated by other students. Please be aware that I am bound to report any suspected academic offence directly to the Office of the Dean.

**Polling Software.** In this course, we will make use of Poll Everywhere both to track attendance and to earn participation credits. You can respond to in-class polls using laptops, tablets, smartphones, or any other device with an internet connection. Alternatively, you can submit your answers through SMS text message (charges from your provider may apply). In order to earn attendance or participation credits, you are required to register for this course by following the link provided above and filling in all of the required information. Please make sure to register with your Carleton email address and to use the first and last name that appear on your student card. Please note that, unless you make special arrangements with the instructor, failing to register for this course on Poll Everywhere may result in your failing to earn attendance or participation points. Please note that attendance sheets will also be used to track attendance and that participating in a poll while not present in class is a violation of course policy and will result in a 50% penalty in your final Attendance and Participation grade.

## **VII. Course Schedule**

The [Course Schedule](#) contains the readings for each week, as well as other important course information, such as test dates and assignment deadlines. Please check the [Course Schedule](#) regularly for changes or updates.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:  
student name  
student number  
course number and section  
instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### Deferrals for Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:  
<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students.  
<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:  
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:  
<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### Important Dates:

Sept. 6      Classes start.

Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for Fall term and Fall/Winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a Fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the Winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from Winter term courses or from the Winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy: 3A35 Paterson Hall

[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

Registrar's Office: 520-2110  
300 Tory

[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)

Academic Advising Centre: 520-3500  
302 Tory

[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)

Writing Services: 520-7850  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Library

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

MacOdrum Library 520-3822

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735



