

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **The History of Scientific Thought**

Course Number and Section:

HISTSCI

2200E 550

Instructor Name(s): Emerson Doyle

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the physical and biological sciences from pre-history to the 20th century. Our focus will be an understanding of the landmark theories in these sciences as informing issues in the foundations and philosophy of science. We will engage questions of scientific methodology, the sources/reliability of scientific knowledge, the prevalence of various goals for, and attitudes toward, science, and the relationships between science, religion, culture, society, and the individual.

Learning Outcomes:

Understanding of what science is, its methods, and why it's been so important to the development of civilization

Basic understanding of multiple scientific theories, both historical and contemporary

Appreciation of why scientific methods continue to be useful

Improve writing, argumentative, and critical analysis skills

Improve ability to reflect and write in consideration of various perspectives and evaluate arguments in their relevant contexts

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required: Lindberg, D.C. (2007) *The Beginnings of Western Science*, 2nd Ed. UC Press.

Suggested: McGrew, T. (ed.) (2009) *Philosophy of Science: An Historical Anthology*.

Suggested: Okasha, S. (2002) *Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP.

Suggested: Henry, J. (2011) *A Short History of Scientific Thought*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Various additional readings, and all required materials from the suggested texts, will be available on OWL.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Active Learning	Various	20
Guided Essay	October 11	10
Second Essay Outline	November 15	N/A
Second Essay	December 6	10
Mid-Year Exam	Fall exam period	15
Research Essay	Various dates in Semester 2	30
Final Exam	Winter exam period	15

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, August 13, 2024