

## Brief Course Outline

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

**Course Number and Section:**

HISTSCI

2200E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Emerson Doyle

**Instructor Email(s):** edoyle9@uwo.ca

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 western science is, its methods, and why it has been an important aspect in the development of civilization

Understanding of multiple scientific theories, both historical and contemporary, and acquire an appreciation for why scientific methods continue to be so useful

Improve your writing and general communication skills, especially with regard to writing from various perspectives and evaluating arguments and ideas in their relevant contexts

Practice conceptualizing, thinking through, researching, and executing on a substantial research project where you must develop your own position on a complex historical topic

Practice critical analysis, argumentative writing, and active reading

### 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.

All non-Lindberg reading assignments will be made available on OWL, but the suggested texts are still worth a look for the wealth of additional resources they contain.

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Active Learning	Weekly	20
Guided Essay	October 2nd	10
Medieval Scholar's Profile	November 27th	10
Exams	Fall & Winter Exam Periods	30
Research Essay Project	Various - Semester 2	30

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

Monday, August 18, 2025