PHIL 1400  Philosophy and Science  
section 220R  Fall, 2013  
Course Syllabus

Course Information

meetings time and place:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
1:00 pm to 1:50 pm  
in Buckingham S106

Instructor: Mike Zerella  
email: mjzerella@gmail.com  
office hours: in Hellem's 282: Mondays, 3 – 4 pm  
in Buckingham S120: Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 – 1 pm

Required Texts

Chalmers, A.F.  *What is This Thing Called Science*. 3rd ed.  
Miller, Kenneth  *Finding Darwin's God*  
Weart, Spencer  *The Discovery of Global Warming*

About the Course

This course will cover the historical and philosophical development of our understanding of science, the scientific method, and scientific theories. It is intended to foster a greater appreciation of science as a fundamentally uncertain yet still powerful tool for understanding the natural world. In addition, we will cover the reasons for believing that socioeconomic, cultural, gender, and educational backgrounds play a large role in shaping people's views—including scientific views—of the world.

Expectations

This course involves a lot of reading, some of which will be slow and difficult. Philosophical arguments and theories can be very complicated, and in order to understand the most important points, students will need to read all of the assigned readings and attend every class.

Philosophy is all about using logical arguments to defend or to undermine specific intellectual positions, some of which may be controversial. As a result, students in any philosophy course should expect to face challenges to some of their deeply-held beliefs, and should expect that some of those beliefs will have trouble standing up to critical analysis (don't worry, this happens to every philosophy student at every level). If you are ok with this and are interested in working through the logic of various arguments in a respectful manner, then you will benefit from this course. However, if you do not wish to have any of your beliefs challenged, or you do not want to understand the underlying logic of the arguments on all sides, or you cannot discuss the issues in a respectful manner, then I recommend that you avoid taking this or any other philosophy course.

My intent as the instructor is to present all of the arguments as fairly as I can so that all views may be considered with the same open-mindedness. I will try to maintain a useful and fair arena for discussing and analyzing all arguments in order to weigh their relative strengths and weaknesses, and to examine their deeper implications (if any) for society and our everyday lives.
Graded Assignments

There will be tests, homework, and papers (see below for due dates). The tests will be short answer and multiple choice questions designed to make sure you are keeping up with the main theories and arguments in the course. The homework will be short writing assignments. The papers will be longer essays in which you are expected to explain and assess a specific philosophical issue of your own choosing. The format of the final exam will be the same as the tests, and will cover all of the major themes of the course. Since philosophy requires that we be able to express and discuss ideas, participation is also a required element of the course. To participate, you may speak up during class discussions, or post in our online discussions, or you may speak with me after class or during office hours. Regular attendance in class is also expected in order to fulfill the requirements of the course.

The following lists the relative weights of the different assignments in determining overall grade.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Important Dates:
Weekly homework due every week before 6pm on Friday (except during paper or test weeks)
Test #1 in class September 27th
Paper #1 due by October 11th
Test #2 in class November 15th
Paper #2 due by December 13th (last day of class)
Final Exam on Saturday, Dec. 14th, 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm in Buckingham S106

Late work and Missed Exams
Unfortunately, I cannot accept late work or reschedule missed exams without an official medical or legal excuse. Check your personal calendar to make sure you will be in town for all due dates. I cannot make last-minute accommodations for missed assignments or due dates!!

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Points for attendance will be included in your participation grade. As per CommRAP policy, missing a total of three weeks' worth of class (9 class meetings) without prior permission will result in automatic failure for the course.

Official Syllabus Statements:

(1) On Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at:
http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html
Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

(2) **On Religious Observances:** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See full details at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

(3) **On Classroom Behavior:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at: http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

(4) **On Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:** The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/odh

(5) **On the Honor Code:** All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at: http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/