Philosophy of Science
Dr. Stephen Hicks
Scarborough 119 // Skype: SRCHicks
Consultation hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-5
Email: PHIL.330.Writings@gmail.com
Web: http://www.stephenhicks.org/courses-2/

Topics and Assignments
In this course, we will cover twelve topics in Philosophy of Science.
During our first class meeting, I will introduce the course and two of the topics.
By August 29, you will sign and submit one copy of this course syllabus, indicating your understanding and commitment.
For our next five meetings, I will lecture on ten further topics, one each meeting.
- Each lecture will have an associated item (reading, video, or podcast) available at my website (http://www.stephenhicks.org/courses-2/).
- The midterm test will be based on the lectures and associated items.
By the end of the lecture series, you will have committed to a major research project.
- You will choose a topic from the lecture series.
- You will determine your major research sources.
- Your sources will include both or all sides of controversy about the topic.
- The sources will include classic and contemporary scholarship.
- You will decide how you will present your major research project: as a formal paper or essay, a live in-class presentation, or a podcast or video posted online.
- You will meet with me at least once during my consultation hours, either in my office or by Skype, to (a) consult on your topic and research materials, and (b) gain my formal approval of your major research project. To set a consultation appointment, email me at the above address indicating your preferred time.
For the remaining class meetings, we will re-visit the twelve topics with student-led seminars on a rotating basis:
- You will present, say, 15-minute overviews of your research sources, one each time, your goal being to teach the rest of the class its key points and arguments.
- You will then lead the discussion and respond to questions for, say, an additional 15 minutes.
- When you are not presenting, you will participate by taking notes, raising questions, and/or otherwise contributing to the discussion.
- The final exam questions will be based on the content of the student-led seminars.
You will submit your major research project by the due date toward the end of the semester.
The final exam will be on the date established for this course by the Registrar. Please consult the official university Exam Schedule online.

Assignments and Evaluation
Signed course agreement: 5%
Major research project determined and approved: 15%
Midterm test: 20%
In-class presentations of research: 20%
Major research project: 20%
Final exam: 20%
I use the University’s standard scale. 90-100% is the excellent A range, 80-89 is the good B range, 70-79 is the average C range, 60-69 is the poor D range, and below 60 is failing.

Four Principles of Respect in Class
1. As your professor, I am a resource and not your boss, father, or enforcer.
2. If I have not prepared for class, I will not come. If you have not prepared for class, you will not come.
3. If I do not have the relevant material with me, I will not come to class. If you do not have the relevant material with you, you will not come to class.
4. If I am not using electronic devices directly for class, I will keep them turned off and put away. If you are not using them directly for class, you will keep yours turned off and put away.

Goals
My goals are to assist you in improving your Knowledge, Skills, and Habits.
Knowledge: Major issues and major thinkers.
Skills: Listening, Note-taking, Reading, Interpretation, Argument, Speaking, Writing, Technology-use, Sociability.
Habits: Commitment, Self-reliance, Resourcefulness, Perseverance, Timeliness.

Schedule (subject to change)
Aug 29: (3) Scientific Method(s). (4) Episodes in Science: Early Modern Era.
Sep 19: (9) Science and Politics. (10) Science and Religion.
Oct 3: Midterm test
Oct 10: Student research presentation seminars
Oct 17: Fall break. Class does not meet.
Oct 24: Student research presentation seminars
Oct 31: Student research presentation seminars
Nov 7: Student research presentation seminars
Nov 14: Student research presentation seminars
Nov 21: Student research presentation seminars
Nov 28: Thanksgiving break. Class does not meet.
Dec 5: Research projects due. Conclusions.
Dec ?: Final exam on date set by Registrar

A copy of this syllabus can be found at http://www.stephenhicks.org/courses-2/.

Syllabus Statements Mandated by Administrators and Accreditation Agency

Accommodations Statement
If you believe you are eligible to receive any type of academic accommodation, through such federal laws as the ADA, please contact the Lang Center for Health, Wellness, Counseling and Disabilities Services at 815-226-4083. The Lang staff manages disability services for Rockford University.

Academic Honor Code Statement
In this course, the policies and procedures concerning the Honor Code, including the definitions of cheating and plagiarism as they appear in the current Rockford University Handbook, will be applicable.

Senior Day Policy Statement
All students are excused from class for “Senior Day.”

Academic Concern with this Course
From the Provost’s office: “Meet with the course professor to discuss your concern. If the issue is not resolved, then you may follow the chain-of-command: Department Chair, the Dean of your College, and the University Provost, in that order. To appeal a final course grade, complete the grade appeal form (located on the Portal under forms/undergraduate student documents or graduate student documents). A description of the grade appeal process is included on p. 55 of the Academic Catalog.”
Workload Expectations

This 3-credit course will meet for 50 minutes per session three times a week throughout the semester. A minimum of 2-3 hours of student preparation time outside of class is expected for each credit hour. Thus, please be prepared to devote 9-12 hours per week to this course (range includes in- and outside-class time).

Agreement

I have read, understood, and accept the terms of this course syllabus.

___________________________  __________________________
Name (printed)                Signature

_________________________
Date

Please sign one copy and return it to Professor Hicks by August 29, 2018.

“A cultivated mind — I do not mean that of a philosopher, but any mind to which the fountains of knowledge have been opened, and which has be taught, in any tolerable degree, to exercise its faculties — finds sources of inexhaustible interest in all that surrounds it: in the objects of nature, the achievements of art, the imaginations of poetry, the incidents of history, the ways of mankind, past and present, and their prospects for the future.” (John Stuart Mill)

***