When and Where?

Lectures:	Thursdays 12-2	GI Theatre	Hakob Barseghyan
Tutorials:	Tuesdays 12-1	NF 007	Felix Walpole
	Tuesdays 12-1	EM 302	Alex Djedovic
	Tuesdays 2-3	VC 206	Felix Walpole
	Tuesdays 2-3	TF 200	Alex Djedovic
	Tuesdays 4-5	NF 004	Felix Walpole

How to Contact You?

Instructor: Hakob Barseghyan (hakob.barseghyan@utoronto.ca).

If you have questions, please, feel free to email me or schedule an appointment. My schedule is flexible, so we can always find a convenient timeslot. Also, don't hesitate to approach me during the break or after the class.

You can also contact your TA's via email.

TA: Felix Walpole (felix.walpole@mail.utoronto.ca).

TA: Alex Djedovic (alex.djedovic@mail.utoronto.ca).

What is this Course About?

This course examines central issues in the philosophy of science: What makes one theory better than another? Is there a universal and unchangeable method of science and, if not, then what makes the choice of methods rational? What is the mechanism of scientific change, i.e. how do scientific theories and methods of their assessment change through time? Among others, we will address the problems of induction, theory-ladenness, underdetermination, and incommensurability and will examine the conceptions of Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos, Feyerabend, and Laudan.

The major ***goal*** of the course – learn to think critically on the issues of the philosophy of science. To that end, you will master a number of ***skills*** that will allow you to effectively identify *problems*, formulate *conceptions*, extract, analyse, evaluate, and propose *arguments*. Every tutorial will contain small breakout group activities with a special focus on one of the skills that you need to master in order to succeed in the course. Read the assigned chapters, come to your tutorials prepared, participate actively, and will most likely succeed in this course.

What is the Grade Breakdown?

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the following components:

- *Attendance* **10**% 1% per attended tutorial
- *Midterm* **20**% October 22, 2015, 12-2pm, **location: AH400**
- *Essay and Peer Reviews* **35**% final version due December 8, 2015
- *Final Exam* **35**% December 22, 2015, 9-11am, **location: EX100**

Assignment extensions and make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of a note from U of T Medical Services confirming an extended period of illness. (For more information, see http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html)

Otherwise late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per day and no assignments will be accepted more than one week after the deadline.

You will submit your final essay to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, you will allow your essay to be included as a source document in the Turnitin reference database, where it will be used for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described at www.turnitin.com.

Where are Course Content and Assignment Instructions?

All course-related content including lecture slides and instructions will be posted at the portal (*Content* folder). Detailed *instructions* regarding assignments as well as the list of *supplementary readings* for each week can be found in the respective folders. Albeit not mandatory, the *supplementary readings* are intended to broaden your knowledge beyond the basic requirements of the course and assist you in writing the final essay.

Lecture slides will be posted right after the lecture. Due to the extensive amount of animation, the slides are not printable, but you can still watch the slides as PowerPoint slideshows.

What should I Read?

In this course, we will mostly read chapters from the following textbook:

Godfrey-Smith, P. (2003) *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*. University of Chicago Press, 2003.

The textbook is available at the UofT Bookstore.

All other assigned readings are available at the portal (folder *Content*/*Required Readings*).

What is the Schedule?

Week	Lectures	Homework	Tutorials
Sep 17	Lecture 1: Introduction		
		No Reading	
Sep 24			Orientation
	Lecture 2: Empiricism and Apriorism		
		Popper, K. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, pp. 3-9	
			DIY: Identify Conception & Problem
Oct 1	Lecture 3: Kantian Apriorism		
		Ayer, A.J. *Language, Truth and Logic*, chapter 4	
			DIY: Identify Conception & Problem
Oct 8	Lecture 4: Logical Positivism		
		§ *Chapter 2* § *Chapter 3*, pp. 39-46	
			DIY: Identify Argument
Oct 15	Lecture 5: Karl Popper		
		§ *Chapter 4* Popper K. *C&R,* pp. 326-336	
			DIY: Problem Summary
Oct 22	Midterm **(location: AH400)** Essay Discussion		
		Start working on Essay	
			Midterm Analysis & Essay Discussion
Oct 29	Lecture 6: Thomas Kuhn		

Week	Lectures	Homework	Tutorials
		§ *Chapters 5-6*	
			DIY: Analyse Argument
Nov 5	Lecture 7: Imre Lakatos		
		Lakatos, I. 'Sci. & Pseudosci.' Submit Draft Essay (Nov 11)	
			No Tutorial – Fall break
Nov 12	Lecture 8: Paul Feyerabend		
		§ *Chapters 7-8* Review Essays	
			DIY: Analyse Argument
Nov 19	Lecture 9: Two Attempts to Escape Relativism		
		Kuhn T. 'Objectivity, Value…' Submit Essay Reviews (Nov 25)	
			DIY: Evaluate Argument
Nov 26	Lecture 10: Larry Laudan		
		§ *Chapter 10* Study Reviews & Edit Essay	
			DIY: Design New Argument
Dec 3	Lecture 11: The Laws of Scientific Change		
		Barseghyan H. *LSC*, chapter 4 Edit & Submit Essay (Dec 8)	
Dec 8			DIY: Complete Essay