PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (PHIL30049)  
**TIME AND PLACE:** Tuesdays 10:00-11:00, Lecture Room 1.

**Lectures and Seminars:** Ioannis Votsis  
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**Seminars:** Tuesdays 14:00 - 15:00  
Tuesdays 15:00 - 16:00  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 13:00-14:00  
Thursdays 11:00-12:00

This course is divided into three major themes: 1) Reduction and the Unity of Science, 2) Probability and Confirmation, and 3) Special Topics: Philosophy of Medicine. The aim of the course is to expose the student to some of the more technical debates in the philosophy of science. Among other things, the course offers students a chance to get a feel for the philosophy of a particular science – in this case the Philosophy of Medicine.

Here are some of the main questions we will be looking at: What kinds of relations exist between theories? Can new theories explain the success of their predecessors? Is science progressing towards unification? What do we mean by the term ‘probability’? What is the relationship between confirmation and explanation? Does the successful prediction of a hitherto unforeseen event provide more confirmation than the successful prediction of a well-known one? Can medicine be called a science? What do we mean by ‘health’ and ‘disease’? What is the role and evidential import of randomised controlled trials?

**Main Textbook**  
New York: W.V. Norton & Company.

**Coursework:**  
One essay to be handed in to the department office by **05/05/06**. The essay should be approximately 2500 words. Suggested essay topics will be distributed nearer the deadline.

**PART I (weeks 1-4): REDUCTIONISM AND THE UNITY OF SCIENCE**

**Week 1: Reductionism**

**Essential Reading:**  
pp. 905-921.

**Further Reading:**  
ch. 8.  

**Week 2: Anti-Reductionism**

**Essential Reading:**

**Further Reading:**

**Week 3: The Unity of Science**

**Essential Reading:**

**Further Reading:**

**Week 4: The Disunity of Science**

**Essential Reading:**

**Further Reading:**
PART II (weeks 5-8): PROBABILITY AND CONFIRMATION

Week 5: Introduction to Probability

Essential Reading:
M. Salmon et al. (eds.) Introduction to the Philosophy of Science,

Further Reading:
Cambridge University Press, ch.6.

Week 6: Interpretations of the Probability Calculus

Essential Reading:
M. Salmon et al. (eds.) Introduction to the Philosophy of Science,

Further Reading:
of California Press.

Week 7: Confirmation

Essential Reading:
M. Salmon et al. (eds.) Introduction to the Philosophy of Science,
Hempel, C.G. (1962) ‘Criteria of Confirmation and Acceptability’, in Curd and
Cover, pp. 445-459.

Further Reading:
Jeffrey (eds.) Studies in Inductive Logic and Probability, Berkeley: University
ch. 3.
26.


Week 8: Bayesianism

Essential Reading:

Further Reading:


PART III (weeks 9-12): PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE

Week 9: Is Medicine a Science?

Essential Reading:


Further Reading:


Week 10: The Concepts of Medicine

Essential Reading:
Further Reading:

Week 11: Medicine and Revolutions

Essential Reading:

Further Reading:

Week 12: Evidence in Medicine

Essential Reading:

Further Reading: