

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
PHL 451 Philosophy of Science
Fall, 2014

Instructor: Sam Powell
Telephone: 849.2334

Office: Smee Hall 206
Email: spowell@pointloma.edu

Office hours: MWF 11:00-12:00 and TTH 10:00-11:00. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (849.2234) or my office.

OUTCOMES:

- Students will recognize and appreciate their connection to the rich history of the world of ideas as found within the diverse western philosophical tradition.
- Students will address questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including philosophical questions for which there may be no easy answers.
- Students will examine, weigh and appreciate the complexity of philosophical systems and human reason.

TEXTBOOKS:

- David C. Lindberg, *The Beginnings of Western Science*
- Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality*
- Yuri Balashov, *Philosophy of Science: Contemporary Readings*

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance in conformity with the catalog requirement. You may miss up to four sessions without penalty. Every absence after the fourth will result in a deduction of 1/2% from your final grade. This number includes absences due to late registration. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after role is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session.
2. A term paper. This term paper should be 15 pages plus attached bibliography of sources used. I will send out more specific instructions in a separate document.
3. A midterm exam and a final, comprehensive exam.
4. Two in-class presentations. You will choose two class sessions and, with another student, lead the discussion of assigned reading.

GRADING:

Term paper	250 points	The grading scale will be as follows:	
Mid-term exam	150	A	90% and up
Final exam	250	B	80-89%
In-class presentations	100 (50 each)	C	70-79%
		D	60-69%
		F	0-59%

Other Matters

Email is the official mode of communication in this course.

The writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Don't just assume that you can

turn work in late. Contact me immediately if an emergency will not allow you to turn in an assignment on time.

The final exam may not be taken early. MAKE HOLIDAY TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.

Inclusive language: The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

Academic accommodations: Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact me and provide recommendations for appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

Academic honesty. Students who present the work of others as if their own commit plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the words or ideas of others without citation. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Additionally, a written report will be filed with the provost and the vice president for student development.

4-Sep	Thu		
9-Sep	Tue	Lindberg 1 & 2	Early Greek and Plato
11-Sep	Thu	Lindberg 3	Aristotle
16-Sep	Tue	Lindberg 3	Aristotle
18-Sep	Thu	Lindberg 4 & 5	Hellenistic and Mathematics
23-Sep	Tue	Lindberg 6 & 7	Medicine, Roman and early medieval
25-Sep	Thu	Lindberg 8-10	Islamic, revival of learning
30-Sep	Tue	Lindberg 11 & 12	Physics
2-Oct	Thu	Lindberg 13 & 14	Medicine and legacy
7-Oct	Tue	G-S, 1	Introduction
9-Oct	Thu	G-S, 2	Logical Empiricism
14-Oct	Tue	G-S, 3, Bashilov, ch. 16	Induction
16-Oct	Thu	G-S, 4; Bashilov, c. 17-18	Karl Popper
21-Oct	Tue	G-S, 5	Kuhn and normal science
23-Oct	Thu	G-S, 6	Kuhn and revolutions
28-Oct	Tue	Bashilov, pt. 3	Kuhn and revolutions
30-Oct	Thu	G-S, 7	Lakatos
4-Nov	Tue	G-S, 8; Bashilov, pt. 6	Sociology of science
6-Nov	Thu	G-S, 9	Feminist theory
11-Nov	Tue	G-S, 10	Naturalistic philosophy
13-Nov	Thu	G-S, 11	Naturalistic philosophy
18-Nov	Tue	G-S, 12	Scientific realism
20-Nov	Thu	Bashilov, pt. 4	Scientific realism
25-Nov	Tue		
27-Nov	Thu		
2-Dec	Tue	G-S, 13	Explanation
4-Dec	Thu	Bashilov, pt. 2	Explanation
9-Dec	Tue	G-S, 14	Bayes' theory
11-Dec	Thu	G-S, 15	Conclusion
18-Dec	Thu		Final exam 1:30