What is the nature of social science and the knowledge that it produces? This course, which is intended to complement INTS 4500 (Social Science Methodology) and INTS 4010 (Epistemology), introduces students to the leading mainstream perspectives on the philosophy of social science. Special attention is given to Positivism and Post-Positivism, Post-Structuralism, Pragmatism, and Scientific Realism.

There will be one textbook for the course: Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*, Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2003. Some of the other texts will also be available for purchase in the bookstore.

The course will be assessed via two written exercises: a single essay of approximately 3-3500 words, or 10 pages double spaced (relating to the first half of the course) at mid-term, and a 15-20 page review essay of a book or several articles, applying the tools acquired during the course, at the end of term.

The class will take place on Wednesdays, 2:00 pm – 5.00 pm in Room Sie 150.

**WEEKLY TOPIC OUTLINE AND READINGS**

**WEEK 1: WEDNESDAY MARCH 24TH**

**Part 1: Introduction to the scope of the course (Martin Rhodes)**

**Part 2: Hume on Causation (Jack Donnelly)**

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*. The minimum necessary reading is §§III, IV and (especially) Part II of §VII. (More optimally, one would read §§III-VII and skim §§IX, X.) (available online at http://18th.eserver.org/hume-enquiry.html)


Recommended:


WEEK 2: WEDNESDAY MARCH 31ST

Logical Positivism and the Beginnings of Post-Positivism (Martin Rhodes)


Karl Popper (1963), “Science: Conjectures and Refutations”, ch. 1 of Karl Popper, *Conjectures and Refutations*, pp. 43-86 (On Blackboard: Course Documents)


WEEK 3: WEDNESDAY APRIL 7TH

Kuhn, ‘Normal Science’ and Scientific Revolutions (Martin Rhodes)


WEEK 4: WEDNESDAY APRIL 14TH

Part 1: Lakatos and Scientific Research Programs (Martin Rhodes)


Imre Lakatos (1970), ‘Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes’, in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave (eds.), *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Cambridge University Press, parts 1, 2, 3a, b and d4, and d4. (On Blackboard: Course Documents)

Part 2: Polanyi, Personal Knowledge and Scientific ‘Beliefs’


Part 3: Feyerabend’s ‘Radical Relativism’


WEEK 5: WEDNESDAY APRIL 21ST

The Two Sociologies: Émile Durkheim and Max Weber (Martin Rhodes)


WEEK 6: WEDNESDAY APRIL 28TH

Part 1: Hermeneutics (Martin Rhodes)


Part 2: Ordinary Language Analysis (Jack Donnelly)
Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, *Wittgenstein and Justice*, ch. 2, 5, 6

Recommended:
Stanley Cavell, *Must We Mean What We Say?*, ch. 1, “Must We Mean What We Say?”

**WEEK 7: WEDNESDAY MAY 5TH**

Constructivism (Jack Donnelly)

Recommended:
André Kukla (2000), *Social Constructivism and the Philosophy of Science*.

**WEEK 8: WEDNESDAY MAY 12TH**

Pragmatism (Jack Donnelly)
John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, ch. 1, end of ch. 2 (pp. 60-68 or 56-62), and especially ch. 4.
Richard Rorty, *Consequences of Pragmatism*, Introduction, ch. 1, 9
Charles Sanders Peirce, *The Essential Peirce*, Volume II: “Pragmatism as the Logic of Abduction,” and “Pragmatism,” especially Introduction (pp. 398-401) and Variant 2 (pp. 421-433)


**WEEK 9: WEDNESDAY MAY 19TH**

**Scientific Realism (Jack Donnelly)**

Rom Harré, *Varieties of Realism*, ch. 1-4, 10-12.

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, ch. 2. “Scientific Realism and Social Kinds.”


Hilary Putnam, *The Many Faces of Realism*, Lectures I and II.

**Recommended:**

Roy Bhaskar, *Scientific Realism and Human Emancipation*, especially chapter 2 and as much of chapter 1 as is tolerable.

Ilkka Niiniluoto, *Critical Scientific Realism*, ch. 1, 2, 7-9.

**WEEK 10: WEDNESDAY MAY 26TH**

**Institutional and Brute Facts (Jack Donnelly)**