

PSK 107

Philosophy of Science

MONDAY 13:00 – 15:50

Room: G-408



The answers you get depend upon
the questions you ask.

— *Thomas Kuhn* —

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Course description

At the end of this course you will:

- ✓ Learn about the history of philosophy
- ✓ Learn how scientific knowledge change throughout the history
- ✓ Understand what 'science' means
- ✓ Be able to differentiate between science & pseudo-science
- ✓ Understand how psychology is deeply connected to philosophy 😊

Main Textbook

Gaarder, J., & Møller, P. (2007). *Sophie's world: A novel about the history of philosophy*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

Complementary Textbook

Cover, J. A., Curd, M., Pincock, J. (2012). *Philosophy of science: The central issues (2nd Edition)*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Other material

Lecture slides & the class notes

Assessment Methods	Contribution to total grade (%)	Date	Explanation
Midterm	25	Midterm Week	Based on topics discussed in the lecture & relevant chapters from textbook
4 Homeworks	10 each, 40 in total	Will be announced in class	The subject will be announced a week before the deadline
1 Final	30	Final Week	Final will NOT cover everything from the beginning; it will be just like a 2 nd Midterm
Participation	5	Every Monday afternoon 😊	Attendance is not mandatory; but to get this point, you have to make yourself visible to the instructor via your participation in class discussions 😊

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
Week1 26.09.2016	Introduction: The purpose of Science	Sofie's World: The Garden of Eden, The Top Hat, The Myths
Week2 03.10.2016	Laws of Nature & Falsifiability	Sofie's World: The Natural Philosophers, Democritus, Fate
Week3 10.10.2016	Reality	Sofie's World: Socrates, Plato
Week4 17.10.2016	Logic & Deduction	Sofie's World: Aristotle
Week5 24.10.2016	Religion & Philosophy & Science	Sofie's World: Hellenism & Two Cultures
Week6 31.10.2016	Copernican Revolution	Sofie's World: The Middle Ages, The Renaissance, The Baroque
Week7 07.11.2016	MIDTERM	
Week8 14.11.2016	Rationality and Scientific Method	Sofie's World: Descartes & Spinoza
Week9 21.11.2016	Empiricism & The problem of induction	Sofie's World: Locke, Hume, Berkeley
Week10 28.11.2016	Paradigm Shifts	Sofie's World: The Enlightenment, Kant, Romanticism
Week11 05.12.2016	The effect of world history in Science	Sofie's World: Hegel, Kierkegaard, Our Own Time
Week12 12.12.2016	No Class	
Week13 19.12.2016	Scientific change: Static or dynamic?	Sofie's World: Marx, Darwin, Freud
Week14 26.12.2016	Incommensurability and the progress of science	Sofie's World: Garden Party, Counterpoint, The Big Bang