



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 517.2 Advanced Topics in the History and Philosophy of Science:
Reductionism**

Winter Term 2014

Course Outline

Thursday, 15:30-18:15 in SS 1253

Instructor: Dr. Megan Delehanty

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Office: SS 1240

Phone: 403-220-2828

Office hours: R 14:15-15:15 or by appointment

Course Description:

Reductionism is normally understood to involve a set of ontological, epistemological, and methodological claims about the relations between different scientific domains. The basic question of reduction is whether the properties, concepts, explanations, or methods from one domain (usually a higher level of organization) can be deduced from or explained by the properties, concepts, explanations, or methods from another domain (a lower level). Reduction is often contrasted with emergence, supervenience, and varieties of holism, though there are many different varieties of both reductionism and anti-reductionism. In this course, we will begin with some older accounts of reduction and see how the debate has changed. The focus will be on the literature in philosophy of biology.

Readings:

There is no required textbook. All readings will be available via Blackboard or e-journals.

Course requirements:

- 1) Article Analyses: 8 article analyses are required. You may choose which articles and which weeks you do an analysis for, but each analysis must be handed in before we discuss that article in class. In an analysis, describe a particular point or argument in the article. Then critically analyze that point, or pose a question about it, or provide an independent argument in support of that point. An article analysis is not an article summary, but an analysis of a portion of the article. The maximum length for an article analysis is 3 pages. $8 \times 5\% = 40\%$
- 2) Lead class discussion for one article. Your task is not to summarize the article or present all the material in it. Your aim is to present some information about the article that will stimulate class discussion. Pick a particular argument that is central in the article. Briefly present that argument. Then start discussion by raising concerns, problems, or a supporting argument. The schedule of presentation will be determined in the first few weeks of term. 10%
- 3) Final paper: 12-15 pages (double spaced, not including bibliography and any figures). Due Thursday April 17 via Dropbox. 50%

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Late Policy

No late papers will be accepted without an appropriate excuse.

Grading scale:

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

Blackboard and email

You are responsible for checking Blackboard and the email you gave the University registrar for updates and class information. When you email me, please include the course name (PHIL 517.2) in the subject line.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/online-services/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.