

SYLLABUS

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| Course Name / Code | Philosophy of Science /IBF 103 |
| Instructor | Dr. Elif Yıldırım |
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| Office Hours | Friday 10.00-12.00 |

Aim of the Course

This course aims to acquaint students with the major issues and questions in the philosophy of science. The course consists of two modules. In the first module, which is on the philosophy of science in general, induction, falsification and revolutions in science will be examined, with reference to the works of such prominent thinkers as Karl Popper and Thomas Kuhn. The second module focuses specifically on the philosophy of social science, and examines causal, rational choice and other approaches widely used in social sciences.

Learning Outputs

Upon completion of this course, the student should :

1. be familiar with the major issues in philosophy of science
2. be familiar with the concepts of induction, deduction, and falsification
3. be able to evaluate the virtues and shortcomings of rational choice, structural-functional and interpretive approaches in social sciences

Weekly Course Schedule

| Week | Topic | Required readings |
|------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction to course | No reading for this week |
| 2 | Introduction & General information about course mechanics /Science and Scope | Ladyman “Introduction” |
| 3 | Induction | Ladyman Ch.1 |
| 4 | Problems of induction | Ladyman Ch.2 |
| 5 | Falsificationism | Ladyman Ch.3 |
| 6 | Revolutions in Science | Ladyman Ch.4 |
| 7 | Casual Analysis | Little Chs.1,2 |
| 8 | MID-TERM EXAM | |
| 9 | Rational Choice Theory | Little Ch.3 |
| 10 | Interpretion Theory | Little Ch.4 |
| 11 | Functional and Structural Explanation | Little Ch.5 |
| 12 | Materialism | Little Ch.6 |
| 13 | Economic Anthropology | Little Ch.7 |
| 14 | Methodological Pluralism | Little Ch.11 |
| 15 | FINAL EXAM | |

Evaluation Methods and Tools

A summary of the grading follows:

Midterm Exam: 40%

Final Exam: 50%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam, and students will also get points for attendance and participation. Examinations will cover material presented in class and in the textbook.

Course Materials

Main Textbook:

James Ladyman (2002). *Understanding Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.

Daniel Little (1991). *Varieties of Social Explanation: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Social Science*. Westview Press

Method

The instructor may use case studies, lectures, questions and exercises from the textbook, Power Point presentations, and student experiences and responses.

Class Participation

Students are encouraged to ask questions to clarify understanding and to discuss and debate the theories, principles, and concepts from the text, case studies, and lectures. Students will be expected to participate in class and will be called upon on a regular and random basis.

Students are expected to come to class having made all the assigned readings for that session. To be successful in the course, the student should expect to spend a minimum of 3-4 hours per week on readings.

Attendance Procedures

Punctuality and regular attendance in classes is of prime importance for successful completion of this course. Students will be expected to arrive for class on time and to remain in class until the end of the class session.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Any student found to be involved in any verifiable incident of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating, plagiarizing, etc.) will receive a grade of "F" for the class.

Course Adjustments and Changes

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. The professor reserves the right to make periodic changes to the syllabus, including: assignments, case studies, time table, examinations, etc., in order to accommodate the needs of the class as a whole and fulfill the goals of the course.