

PHIL 160 section 01(20236)

Philosophy of Science

ONLINE/ASYNCHRONOUS

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The philosophy of science is the investigation of philosophical questions that arise from reflection on science. It may surprise you to learn that philosophical questions about science cannot be answered by scientific methodologies (none other than Stephen Hawking made this very mistake himself!)

- What distinguishes science from pseudo-science? Is scientific change a rational process? In what sense is science objective? What are natural laws and what do they describe? Do scientific theories offer a true account of the world?
- We will read works by Helen Longino, W.V. Quine, Ian Hacking, and others.
- Develop your knowledge of the theoretical underpinnings of science.
- Course work will consist of three short essays.

Prerequisite(s): Upper division; and completion of A3, ENGL 1B, HUM 2B, or equivalent with a C- or better OR completion of WST or WST Self-Directed Placement (For more info, visit sjsu.edu/wac/wst/students). Or Graduate/PBAC standing.