

Philosophy V83.0090, Fall 2008

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Time & Place Philosophy second floor seminar room, 5 Washington Place
9.30–10.45 AM

Texts *Theory and Reality*, Peter Godfrey-Smith, University of Chicago Press, 2003.

- *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas Kuhn, University of Chicago Press, 1996. (Any edition that contains the postscript is fine.)
- Readings distributed via Blackboard

Web The latest versions of course handouts and so on are at my personal web page: www.strevens.org/classes/philsci08

Scanned readings will be posted on the course's Blackboard site, which you access from NYU Home.

Content What is science? How does it work? When it works, what kind of knowledge does it provide? Is there a scientific method? How do experiments provide evidence for theories? What is the nature of scientific explanation? How does the social organization of science contribute, if at all, to its success?

Evaluation Your total grade will be made up of:

First paper (due Oct 6)	25%
Second paper (due Nov 10)	30%
Short presentation	5%
Take-home exam	40%

- Papers should be eight to ten pages long.

Plagiarism All work submitted for this class should be your own. Any words quoted from other sources should be attributed explicitly to those sources. If you are unsure whether your use of someone else's work is legitimate, please ask me. The penalties for plagiarism include failing the class and worse.

Strevens Office hours are Mon 11:00 to 12:30, after class, and by appointment.
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