PHIL 10149 - Philosophy of Science (Honours)

Course Organiser and Lecturer: Dr Jo Wolff (jo.wolff@ed.ac.uk)
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1. Course Aims and Objectives
The aim of this course is to provide a more advanced introduction to Philosophy of Science for Honours students, with an interest in the subject area. The course is a continuation of the pre-honours Philosophy of Science 1, although the latter is not a pre-requisite for it. This year the emphasis will be on the metaphysics of science, which we will approach through the question of laws of nature.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes
On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain key issues and controversies in Philosophy of Science.
2. Explain and critically analyse key theories and arguments in Philosophy of Science.
3. Understand and explicate the relation between issues in Philosophy of Science and other areas of philosophy.
4. Explain and justify their views on various positions in Philosophy of Science.

3. Class times and office hours
There are two types of class meetings for this course: a two hour seminar each week on Tuesday, 11:10-13:00, and one hour tutorials on Thursday, starting in week 2. Please check your timetable for your tutorial on Thursday. Office hours are Thursday, 11-12 and 15-16 in DSB 6.03.

4. Assessment
Mid-term essay of 1,500 words (40%) DUE: February 27, 12pm
End-of-semester essay of 2,500 words (60%) DUE: April 23, 12pm
5. Course Content and Readings

The readings are divided into “Seminar”, “Tutorial”, and “Additional”. Please read the seminar readings before the SEMINAR (on Tuesday), and the tutorial reading(s) for your TUTORIAL on Thursday. Both seminar and tutorial readings are required readings. Additional readings are useful if you would like to write an essay on the topic in question, but are entirely optional for the purposes of seminar and tutorial discussion.

WEEK 1 Laws of Nature and the Philosophy of Science

Seminar reading

WEEK 2 Laws of Nature, Laws of Science

Seminar reading:

Tutorial reading:

WEEK 3: Governing and Non-Governing Laws

Seminar reading

Tutorial reading

Additional reading
WEEK 4 Reductionism: Humean Supervenience

Seminar reading

Tutorial reading

Additional reading

WEEK 5 Non-reductionism and Induction

Seminar reading

Tutorial reading

Additional readings

WEEK 6 Laws beyond physics

Seminar Reading
Tutorial Readings

Additional Readings

WEEK 7 Strict Laws or Ceteris Paribus Laws?

Seminar Reading

Tutorial Reading

Additional Readings

WEEK 8: Laws and Chances

Seminar reading

Tutorial reading

Additional readings
WEEK 9: Laws and Explanation

**Seminar Reading**

**Tutorial Reading**

**Additional Readings**

WEEK 10 Laws and Dispositions

**Seminar reading**

**Tutorial reading**

**Additional readings**
Hildebrand, T., 2014, “Can Bare Dispositions Explain Categorical Regularities?,” *Philosophical Studies*, 167 (3): 569–584

WEEK 11 Laws, Measurement, and Quantities

**Seminar reading**

**Tutorial reading**
TBC