

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS

PHI 210 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE/GE

Credit Hours: 3 Lec: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A philosophical investigation into the nature of scientific inquiry and methodology: Topics include the history and definition of science, the realist/antirealist debate, the limits of science, the relationship between science and religion, and the nature, formation, use, and confirmation of scientific laws and theories.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Use logic and argumentation to analyze dominant issues in philosophy of science.
- 1.2 Examine the assumptions, methods, and principles which underlie the enterprise of scientific investigation.
- 1.3 Relate relevancy of issues in the philosophy of science to scientific debates and controversies in modern society.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 describe the nature of philosophy as a discipline and philosophy of science as a branch of that discipline.
- 2.2 analyze the concept of science in an effort to be able to distinguish science from non-science.
- 2.3 describe the nature and process of modern scientific method and the epistemic status of scientific claims.
- 2.4 explain the differences between science and scientism.
- 2.5 explain the relationship between observation and scientific theories.
- 2.6 formulate and defend a philosophical position on the realist/antirealist debate; the nature of theory confirmation; the relationship between science and religion; or the different models of scientific explanation.

3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CATEGORY & CRITERIA

ARTS & HUMANITIES

- The analysis, interpretation, and/or creation of cultural, artistic, and/or intellectual artifacts
- The importance of global awareness, intercultural knowledge, and intellectual humility, objectivity, and/or curiosity, by situating cultural, artistic, and/or intellectual artifacts in a diverse range of cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts
- The exploration of ideological, philosophical, existential, and/or moral questions with the possibility of developing informed civic and ethical identities through study and/or creative self-expression
- The understanding of current global challenges (environmental, social justice, etc.), including exploration of strategies for positive change

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Class discussions
- 4.2 Lectures
- 4.3 Instructional technology
- 4.4 Text analysis

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Note taking
- 5.2 Classroom discussion

- 5.3 Group activities
  - 5.4 Written summaries on assigned reading
  - 5.5 Classroom presentations
6. EVALUATION
- 6.1 Quizzes and exams
  - 6.2 Essay assignments
  - 6.3 Oral presentations
  - 6.4 Participation
7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
  - 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
  - 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
  - 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
  - 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
  - 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester. Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid. For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
    - Submitting an academic assignment
    - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
    - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
    - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
    - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course