**Philosophy of Science**

**Phil 317**

Spring 2013, TR 2:00-3:15

**David Henderson**

**Overview:**

This class will provide an overview of the philosophy of science.

**Texts:**

* Rosenberg, Alexander. 2008: *Philosophy of Science,* 3rd ed*.* Routledge Press.
* Kuhn, Thomas. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, 50th Aniversary Edition, University of Chicago Press, 2012 (Note that I did not order this through the bookstore. It is inexpensive, and I suggest the Kindle edition through Amazon).
* Various readings (those readings not in the two sources above will be made available on blackboard).

**Evaluation:**

* A early-semester take-home exam (30% of the course grade)
* A late-semester take-home exam (30% of the course grade)
* A term paper on a topic selected in cooperation with the instructor (30% of the grade)
* The remainder of the student’s grade is a matter of class preparation and participation.

**Class Schedule:**

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| 1-8 Introduction | 1-10 Rosenberg, chapter 1 |
| 1-15 Rosenberg, Chapter 2 | 1-17 Kuhn, 1/2 |
| 1-22 Kuhn 2/2 | 1-24 Kitcher, *The Advancement of Science,* Chapters 3-4 (blackboard) |
| 1-29 Kitcher, continued | 1-31 Rosenberg, chapter 3 |
| 2-5 van Fraassen, excerpt (blackboard) | 2-7 Rosenberg, chapter 4 |
| 2-12 Rosenberg, chapter 5 | 2-14 Rosenberg, chapter 6 andWoodward, “Explanation and Invariance in the Special Sciences” (blackboard) |
| 2-19 Woodward, continuedEarly-semester Take-home, questions announced | 2-21 TBA |
| 2-26 Rosenberg, chapter 7 | 2-28 Rosenberg, chapter 8Take-home, due at class time |
| 3-5 Nagel, excerpt on reduction (blackboard) | 3-7 Kitcher, “1953 and all That” (blackboard) |
| 3-12 Rosenberg, chapter 9 | 3-14 Beatty, “The Evolutionary Contingency Thesis” |
| 3-19 Spring Break  | 3-21 Spring Break |
| 3-26 TBA | 3-28 TBA |
| 4-2 Rosenberg, chapter 10 | 4-4 Rosenberg, chapter 11 |
| 4-9 Glymour, excerpt on bootstrap confirmation. | 4-11 Rosenberg, chapter 12 |
| 4-16 Rosenberg, chapter 13Late-Semester Take-home 2, questions announced | 4-18 Rosenberg, chapter 14 |
| 4-23 Rosenberg, chapter 15 | 4-25 Takehome, due at class time. |

Term paper due: 1:00 April 29th.