Explanation and Induction
Fall 2009

Instructor information:
Jeff Helzner
Email: jh2239@columbia.edu
Office: 721 Philosophy Hall

Location: 716 Philosophy Hall
Time: W 6:10 – 8:00
Grading:
60% Final Paper (Due by 12/17.)
30% Class Presentation
10% Class Participation

Schedule:

Part 1
9/9 Introductory remarks

9/16 NO CLASS

9/23 “Studies in the Logic of Explanation” (Hempel and Oppenheim)
   “Explanations, Predictions, and Laws” (Scriven)

9/30 “Explanation and Scientific Understanding” (Friedman)
   “Explanatory Unification” (Kitcher)

10/7 “The Pragmatic Theory of Explanation” (van Fraassen)
   “van Fraassen on Explanation” (Kitcher and Salmon)

10/14 “A Pragmatic Approach to Explanations” (Gardenfors)

Part 2
10/21 “Studies in the Logic of Confirmation I” (Hempel)
10/28  “Studies in the Logic of Confirmation II” (Hempel)
       “The New Riddle of Induction” (Goodman)

11/4   “The Two Concepts of Probability” (Carnap)
       “Inductive Logic and Science” (Carnap)

11/11  “Truth and Probability” (Ramsey)
       “Difficulties in the Theory of Personal Probability” (Savage)
       “Subjective and Objective Confirmation” (Maher)

11/18  Excerpt from on statistical decision theory from *Games and Decisions*
       “Decision Theory and Confirmation” (Levi)
       “Must the Scientist Make Value Judgments” (Levi)

11/25  “Two Dogmas of Belief Revision” (Rott)
       “Economics and Economy in the Theory of Belief Revision” (Rott)

12/2   “Why Probability Does Not Capture the Logic of Scientific Justification”
       (Glymour and Kelly)

       “Learning Theory and the Philosophy of Science” (Kelly, Schulte, Juhl)

12/9   Closing remarks