

Explanation and Induction

Fall 2009

Instructor information:

Jeff Helzner
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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