

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE  
SYLLABUS (APPROXIMATE) AND REQUIRED READING LIST

David Albert

Weeks 1-3: Explanation and Causation

Nagel: The Structure of Science Chapters 1-3

The Philosophy of Science (Boyd, et. al., editors): Papers 16, 20, and 17 (also read the introductory essay to section 2, by Gasper)

Weeks 4-6: Induction and Confirmation

Hempel: "Studies in the Logic of Confirmation" in Aspects of Scientific Explanation

Goodman: Fact, Fiction, and Forecast

The Philosophy of Science (Boyd, et. al., editors): Paper 5, parts A and B

Weeks 7-9: Laws and Counterfactuals

Nagel: The Structure of Science Chapter 4

Lewis: "Counterfactual Dependence and Time's Arrow", in Philosophical Papers v.2

Weeks 10-12: The Structure of Theories

Nagel: The Structure of Science Chapters 5, 6, and 7

The Philosophy of Science (Boyd, et. al., Editors) Papers 1, 3, 5 (part C), 13, 10, 7.

Week 12: Reduction and Chance

Nagel: The Structure of Science Chapter 11

The Philosophy of Science (Boyd et. al., Editors) Papers 21 and 23

Lewis: "A Subjectivist's Guide to Objective Chance" in Philosophical Papers v.

van Fraassen: Laws and Symmetry and The Scientific Image (Selections)