

Phil 160 sec 03("Philosophy of Science") overview Spring 2014

Instructor information:

Prof. Janet D. Stemwedel Dept. of Philosophy, FOB 232
Email: janet.stemwedel@sjsu.edu Office phone: 408-924-4521
Office Hours: Tu Th 9 – 10 am, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, or by appointment.

Class meetings:

Tu Th 12:00 am – 1:15 pm, Clark Hall 234

Course website: http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160_index.html

Canvas: <https://sjsu.instructure.com>

Your Canvas username is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

Your Canvas password is the same as your SJSU One Account password.

Canvas help: http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/student_resources/index.html

Course description: This course will explore what science is, what it does, and how it works. We will examine: the features of its methodology which distinguish science from pseudo-science; how theoretical considerations and experiments interact to shape the scientific picture of the world; how scientific theories evolve and how theories from different scientific disciplines are related; and whether science does or should purport to give us a literally true picture of the world. We will consider not only what is peculiar to the culture of science, but also how this scientific culture fits into the culture of the larger society. (GE Area R)

Course requirements and grading:

4 **short essays**, 500 words each (lowest grade dropped, 25%)

Midterm exam (20%) and **final exam** (25%)

"Journal club" research assignments, in groups on Canvas (20%)

Class participation (10%)

Short Essay #1 due in class Tu Feb. 11

Required texts:

Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality: an Introduction to the Philosophy of Science* (PGS)

Phil 160 Course Reader -available electronically via Canvas; dead-tree version available for purchase at Maple Press (481 E. San Carlos St.)

FINAL EXAM: Tue. May 20, 9:45 AM-12:00 PM

Greensheet: http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160S14_greensheet.html