

ABRIDGED SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Name: PHIL 3800 (Science & Objectivity)

Meeting Times: TR 3:30-4:59pm

Classroom: TBD

Course Website: <http://canvas.upenn.edu>

Satisfies one contemporary theoretical philosophy, philosophy of science, and 3000 level or above for philosophy majors

Professor's Information

Name: Quayshawn Spencer

Title: Robert S. Blank Presidential Associate Professor of Philosophy

Office: Cohen Hall, room 464

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm and by appointment

Email: qspencer@upenn.edu

Course Description

This course is an exploration of traditional philosophical questions concerning objectivity in science. We will start by addressing central questions in feminist philosophy of science, such as what is objective reality and what is objective knowledge? Next, we will explore whether science discovers objectively real entities or relations, which is a central topic in the scientific realism debate. We will also explore whether scientific knowledge is objective. We will read mostly 20th and 21st century philosophers of science, such as Nelson Goodman, Thomas Kuhn, Lisa Lloyd, and Helen Longino. We will also apply what we learn to at least one case study.

Required Items

1. Goodman, N. (1983). *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
2. Hempel, C. (1966). *Philosophy of Natural Science*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.
3. Kuhn, Thomas. (2012). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, 4th Edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
4. Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.