

Philosophy of Science

PHIL 160, Section 01

Spring 2026

In-person, Mondays and Wednesdays, BBC 108 (3 - 4:15 p.m.)

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- What is science? What are its foundations and methods? How has science changed over time?
- Why are so many people quick to trust claims that are labeled “scientifically proven” or “approved by scientists”? Where does science get its authority and influence?
- Is science truly the best way of seeking knowledge, or is Hollywood onto something with its portrayal of mad scientists?
- What role does science—and the way we think about it—play in debates over pressing issues like AI and climate change?
- And finally, putting aside political biases and personal allegiances, what can be said about statements like the ones below? What can be said about the relationship between science and politics?



The answers to the questions above aren't all found in the lab—we need philosophers for that too.

That's why this class explores the views of great philosophers like Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Heidegger, Popper, Kuhn, and more, who grappled with these and countless other big questions.

So, enroll in Philosophy of Science! Not only is it like a Netflix binge session with fewer explosions and more mind-blowing ideas, but it's also “scientifically proven” to make you more interesting at parties!

This 3-unit course satisfies GE Upper Division Area: 2/5. Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (SJSU Studies area R).

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all UD GE courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.