

Philosophy 2400H
Philosophy, Science and Nature
Spring 2000
Syllabus
Scott A. Kleiner
122 Peabody Hall
Office Hours: Mon 3:00-4:00 PM, Friday, 2:30-3:30
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I. Texts (abbreviated titles in brackets []):

1. Sober, E. *Core Questions in Philosophy*, 2nd. Ed. [CQP] Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall 1995
2. Chalmers, *What is This Thing called Science?* 2nd Edition. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett 1982 [WTS]
3. Kuhn, T.S. *The Copernican Revolution*. [CR] New York: Random House, 1959
4. Sterelny, K. and Griffiths, P. *Sex and Death: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Biology*: Chicago [S&D], University of Chicago Press
5. Buchanan, A. *et. al. From Choice to Chance: Genetics & Justice* [CTC] Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

II. Credit: Approximately 1/4 of your grade will be based on each of the following:

1. 3 in-class exams. Prepared essay questions. Dates to be announced.
2. Final exam, as scheduled, 2 Hrs.

In calculating your average adjustment will be made in your favor for improvement, though you can also be penalized from 'coasting'. (Higher grades earned on later work will count more, but so also will lower grades earned later.)

III. General policies.

- a. Academic honesty. Strict academic honesty in all respects must be observed, in accord with University policy.
- b. Class attendance: Everyone will be expected to attend class regularly. Roll will be taken daily at the beginning of class and discussion sections. An accumulation of more than five absences raises serious questions about your benefiting from this course, and you will be expected to provide an acceptable explanation for your absences before you will be allowed to

continue in the class. Persistent tardiness will also deprive you of learning opportunities and thus will be considered absences. Inattention can result in dismissal from that day's class and a mark of absence. You may not leave class before I have dismissed it unless I have given you permission ahead of time, and then I will ask you to sit near a door to minimize disturbance of the class as you leave. Class will be taught without a break, so be prepared to endure 90 minutes. You will be expected to show evidence of being consistently prepared for class over the quarter. Excessive absence, persistent tardiness, insufficient preparation or inattention can bring about a deduction of as much as one point from your final grade, if not administrative dismissal.

III. Topics.

A. Introduction to Philosophy. This section will deal with some of the main philosophical theories of knowledge and reality.

First day: Syllabus and outline of course

Week 1: Introduction: Philosophy and Reasoning.
Sober, CQP I 'Introduction'

Week 2,3,4: The concept of knowledge and sources of knowledge. Foundationalism, reliable evidence, induction.
Sober, CQP III, 'Theory of Knowledge', Lectures and Readings

1st Exam

Week 5,6,7 Science and its History: The Copernican Revolution.
Chalmers, WTS
Kuhn, CR

2nd Exam

Week 8, 9,10; Religion and the Darwinian Revolution
Sober, CQP II, Lectures and readings
Sterelny and Griffiths [S&D]: Chapter 2

Week 11, 12; Genes, Molecules and Organisms
Sterelny and Griffiths [S&D]: Chapters 3-7

3rd Exam

Week 13, 14, 15,16,17,18 Ethics and Genetics
Sober CQP V
Buchanan *et. al.* CTC Chapters 1,2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Buchanan, A., Brock, D.W., Daniels, N. & Wikler, D. *From Chance to Choice: Genetics & Justice*. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press. Concerning the just utilization of genetic knowledge.

Dennett, D. *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*. New York: Touchstone. A lively presentation of philosophical implications of Darwinism.

Edwards, P. et. al. (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*; Look up concepts, philosophers, topics here.

Gorovitz, S. et. al. *Philosophical Analysis: An Introduction to its Language and Techniques*. New York NY: Random House; Basic logic and conceptual analysis

Kitcher, P. *Abusing Science*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press; About the 'Scientific Creationism' fraud.

Kitcher, P. *The Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities* New York: Touchstone Books 1996

Kuhn, T.S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press; a theory of scientific change that has had wide impact.

McMullen, E. (ed.) *The Creation-Evolution Controversy*. South Bend IN: U. of Notre Dame Press; A view from a well known Catholic philosopher of science.

Oldroyd, D.R. *Darwinian Impacts*. Atlantic Highlands, N.J.: Humanities Press, 1987

Popper, K.R. *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. London: Hutchinson; A classic in the philosophy of science.

Ruse, M. *The Darwinian Revolution*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press; A thorough philosophical, historical and sociological account.

Ruse, M. *Darwinism Defended*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley; A product of Ruse's experience in an Arkansas court case regarding the teaching of creationism in biology courses.

Ruse, M. *Taking Darwin Seriously*. Oxford: Blackwell; Implications of Darwinism for Ethics and the Theory of Knowledge.

Sober, E. *Philosophy of Biology*. Boulder CO: Westview Press 1993