

Philosophy 3330 Spring 2021  
Reading questions #9  
Due Thu, March 25

Read Chapter 7 of James Ladyman's *Understanding Philosophy of Science* and then answer the following questions. Your answers should be uploaded in Blackboard.

1) Carl Hempel famously developed what he called the 'Deductive Nomological model' of scientific explanation (DN model – also sometimes called 'the covering law model').

Briefly describe what it takes for something to count as a scientific explanation on this account.

2) Look at the first three sample explanations (i, ii, iii) on page 198. None of these actually fit the DN model criteria. Do you think they count as good scientific explanations? For each of the three cases, do you think something be added or fixed to make it more like a DN model explanation? Would that actually make the explanation better?

3) After reading the chapter, try to come up with a question that you want answered or a topic that you would like to be discussed further. This could be something that the chapter forced you think about or it could be something that you thought was particularly confusing in the chapter.