

<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>
Joel Velasco	Eng/Phil 265G	joel.velasco@ttu.edu	TR 2:00-3:30

<b>MAIN COURSE OBJECTIVES</b>
You should get both general and more specific benefits from this course. More <i>generally</i> after taking this course you will be able to better identify and analyze some of the central problems in the philosophy of science. Furthermore, the course can help you succeed in both other philosophy courses and courses in other areas; the skills of philosophical analysis, argument formation, and writing that you develop in this course will give you a massive advantage in any other class that involves thinking or writing. Also, your work in this class can help you sharpen your general reasoning and communication skills. You will begin seizing difficult concepts more easily and communicating more clearly, concisely, accurately, and attentively.

Text: Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science by Peter Godfrey-Smith, University of Chicago Press, 2003 (here referred to as ‘PGS’)

**Assignments:**

- All assignments and readings will be posted on the class website at <http://joelvelasco.net/teaching/3330> All readings will either be from PGS or will be available on the website as a pdf. You should bring your book with you to class as well as a printed copy of whatever other readings are assigned for that week.
- There will be two in-class exams and two papers due (one of these takes the place of the final exam during finals week). Each of these is worth roughly 25% of your final grade.

*Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Your likelihood of failing the class increases substantially with every lecture you miss. If you think you will miss more than three lectures this semester, this is probably not the class for you.*

**Other Matters:**

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism are, of course, prohibited in this class just as they are in all university classes. They will be taken particularly seriously in this class, and any cases that may arise will be treated in a manner consistent with University policy. These two violations of academic integrity are each defined in the section of the Texas Tech online official publications titled “Academic Integrity.” Plagiarism is there described as follows:

“Plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit.” <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php>

You can find excellent explanations of what specifically constitutes plagiarism as opposed to proper citation, and also tutorials on how to avoid plagiarism at the following websites: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

**Note:** If, at any time, you are at all unclear about what counts as plagiarism, or about whether you are properly citing sources in any of your written work, please just come by and ask me about it. You do not want to be confused or careless about this serious matter.

***Classroom Civility:*** It should go without saying that disruptive behavior is not considered acceptable in the classroom. In addition, the study of philosophy, like any other substantial subject, requires a certain level of concentration. And everyone's attention and concentration is facilitated by an absence of unnecessary distractions within classroom. In concrete terms, this means you should turn off phone ringers before class starts; keep them in your bag or pocket. If you break this rule, you will be asked to leave class for the day – texts and facebook can go on hold for an hour! I'm serious about this – don't text or poke around on your phone during class, it is disrespectful and distracting. If there is something incredibly pressing, get up and go to the hall. You do not need a laptop in class, though you may use one for taking notes. But I reserve the right to ask to see your screen at any time during the class or to ask to see your notes at the end of the class. If you are not using your computer for class purposes, you may lose your privilege to use one in class in the future.

***Students with Disabilities:*** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.