

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-12**

**Philosophy 2370F: Science and Values
Previously Philosophy 230F/G**

Fall Term 2011

Wed. 6-9 pm

TC 303

Office hours: Tu, Th 1:30 -2:30 pm

Instructor: Kathleen Okruhlik

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Please note that the following information remains subject to change.

OVERVIEW

Most people believe that good science is “value-free” science. There are, however, some pretty compelling reasons to think that values play a significant role in science—not just in its technological applications but also in its direction and content. We shall examine arguments on both sides of this issue, with an eye to figuring out whether the presence of values must always compromise the integrity of science. Some of the course material will be fairly theoretical so that students gain a good grasp of the philosophical issues at stake (as well the debate’s historical context). Much of the material, however, will focus on specific case studies. These will include scientific representations of race and gender, eugenics, military research, the commercialization of research, and the role of government in science.

OBJECTIVES

In addition to becoming familiar with important aspects of the burgeoning literature on the relationship between science and values, students will be expected to develop their ability to:

- read carefully and with attention to context.
- pursue research using both traditional and web-based resources.
- represent opposing
- communicate these effectively.
- argue respectfully with one another.
- work collaboratively to reach a arguments fairly (both orally and in writing).
- critically assess complex arguments (both orally and in writing).
- develop their own positions and better understanding of sometimes controversial issues.

TEXTS

M. Angell, *The Truth About the Drug Companies*

D. Paul, *Controlling Human Heredity*

Additional material will be available through webct.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance, participation, and at least one oral presentation (20%); two five-page essays (15% each→30% total); a mid-term exam (20%), and a final exam (30%).

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.