

Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy
Philosophy of Science
July 2007

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Readings

The readings for the seminar will be available electronically, through the class web page, at <http://spot.colorado.edu/~pasnau/seminar>

Schedule

Week One – Fundamentals

- July 9. The problem of induction (Huemer) PM
- July 10. Inference to the best explanation & logical probability (Huemer) PM
- July 11. Does science seek causes? (Pasnau) AM
- July 12. Laws of nature (Tooley) PM
- July 13. Experiment (Franklin) PM

Week Two – Specific Applications

- July 16. The Mendel-Fisher controversy (Franklin) PM
- July 17. Historical sciences (Cleland) PM
- July 18. Defining life (Cleland) PM
- July 19. Time and physics (Monton) PM
- July 20. Quantum non-locality (Monton) PM

Week Three – Further Issues

- July 23. Values in Science I: What are theories and models? (Peschard & van Fraassen) AM
- July 24. Values in Science II: How do models represent, and what? (Peschard & van Fraassen) AM
- July 25. Truthlikeness (Oddie) PM
- July 26. TBA (Huemer) PM
- July 27. Conclusion (Pasnau) AM

All AM classes meet from 9-12; all PM classes meet from 2-5; all classes meet in Hellems 269. Each weekday, at a time to be announced, Mike Zerella will lead an optional discussion session.

Course Work

Two five-page papers will be required: the first on Monday, July 16th, the second on Monday, July 23rd. In addition, to receive credit for the course, you must submit by August 31st a term paper of no more than 20 pages, which may be an expanded and revised version of one of the two short papers.

The heart and soul of this seminar will be neither reading nor writing (the bulk of which you should do before you come and after you leave town), but rather thinking and talking about philosophy, during and between seminar meetings. We will insist that you participate actively in the seminar, and we will urge you to hang out between meetings with your fellow seminarians, talking about philosophy, art, life, politics, whatever.