PHIL 160 Section 80, "**Philosophy of Science"**
Fully Online/Asynchronous
Spring 2027, Jan 22nd to May 11th
Instructor: Trevor Gullion
Trevor.gullion@sjsu.edu



Description:

Scientific methodology, explanation and verification; science and society. Varying topics from physical, biological and social sciences.

Since the early 20th century, democratic societies have become dependent upon the unquestionable (epistemic) authority of the scientific community. It's been said that "philosophy of science is about as useful to scientists as ornithology is to birds;" this quote is intended to dismiss research in the Philosophy of Science as irrelevant for scientists and, by extension, "non-scientist." However, such a dismissal ignores the wide range of topics pursued in the Philosophy of Science. Questions like: Where does science come from? What does science do? Why does *science* do it (and *not* philosophy)? How does science do it? How do we distinguish science from pseudo-science? What is the relationship between science, fact, truth, nature, reality, language? What *is* the relationship between science and society? And what *ought* this relationship look like? Thus, a Philosopher of Science might respond to such attempts at dismissal like the one mentioned above and ask: *why* don't birds find ornithology useful, *what* does this says about the ornithology as a science, and *why should birds (and human) care at all!?!*

Prerequisite(s): Upper division; and completion of A3, ENGL 1B, HUM 1B, or equivalent with a C- or better or Graduate/PBAC standing. Completion of Core General Education; Completion or co-registration in, 100W (strongly recommended).
Satisfies: GE UD Area: 2/5. Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (SJSU Studies Area R).
3 units