



<b>Course</b>	<b>Philosophy of Science</b>
<b>UVa code</b>	41221
<b>ECTS</b>	6
<b>Department</b>	028-Filosofía, Lógica y Filosofía de la Ciencia y Teoría e Historia de la Educación
<b>Area</b>	585-Lógica y Filosofía de la Ciencia
<b>Professors</b>	Adán Sus <a href="mailto:adansus@fyl.uva.es">adansus@fyl.uva.es</a>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This course is intended as an introduction to the philosophy of science. We will focus on some of the fundamental problems of contemporary philosophy of science. The perspective of the course has its origins in some philosophical discussions developed in the 20th century, although many of the problems connect directly to questions linked to the birth of modern science.</p> <p>We will present and discuss the main questions relative to the methodology of science and which are considered to be essential to understanding how contemporary science works. These include issues like empirical confirmation, induction and explanation. Furthermore, we will briefly look at the ontological dimension of science through the debate regarding scientific realism.</p>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	The student will become familiar with the main problems in contemporary philosophy of science and will be able to identify and discuss the fundamental methodological questions of present science.
<b>Contents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduction</li><li>- Confirmation of scientific hypotheses</li><li>- Scientific concepts</li><li>- The problem of induction</li><li>- Scientific Explanation</li><li>- Realism</li></ul>
<b>Teaching and learning methods</b>	The perspective of the course is systematic. The professor will present the main problems in some of the classes, together with the conceptual tools and the references that are necessary to tackle them. The rest of the classes will be dedicated to discuss relevant case-studies and to solve some exercises.
<b>Assessment methods</b>	<p>The evaluation will take into account the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Written exam of the theoretical part (70%)</li><li>- Exercises and case-studies (30%)</li><li>- Short essay (optional)</li></ul>



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### Recommended reading

This is some of the basic bibliography of the subject. More specific references will be provided in the course.

Bird, A. *Philosophy of Science*. Oxford, Routledge, 1998.

French, S. *Philosophy of Science. Key Concepts*, London, Bloomsbury, 2016.

Godfrey-Smith, P. *Theory and Reality*, The University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Goodman, N. *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*, Bobbs-Merrill, 1973.

Hempel, C., *Philosophy of Natural Science*, Prentice-Hall, 1966.

Okasha, S. *Philosophy of Science. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Psillos, S. & Curd, M. *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Science*, London, Routledge, 2008.