

COURSE SYLLABUS

PSK 107 (5) PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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| Instructor | : Canay Doğulu, PhD |
| Office | : G-410/A |
| Office Phone | : 0312 - 246 66 66 / 1645 |
| E-mail | :@başkent.edu.tr (e-mail is by far the best way to contact me) |
| Class hours | : section 01 Mondays 13:00 – 15:50, Class G-309 section 02 Mondays 09:00 – 11:50, Class G-309 |
| Office hours | : (to be confirmed) |

Course Description

This course provides a broad introduction to the field of philosophy of science. The focus will be primarily on nature of science with reference to basic foundational thinkers and topics in philosophy of science. Students will be introduced to the main themes of philosophy of science including what science is, how it works, and what makes science different from other ways of investigating the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to:

- ✓ Get knowledge on the development of philosophy through ages.
- ✓ Gather the train of thought of different philosophers wondering about the very same subjects but reaching on different conclusions.
- ✓ Learn the development of scientific knowledge and methodology and the counterfactual dogmatic approaches.
- ✓ Like philosophers, present their affect, thought, and arguments in accordance with rhetoric.
- ✓ Predict the effect of philosophical knowledge on psychology.
- ✓ Develop ideas about how advancements of science would affect the future of psychological sciences.
- ✓ Creatively present philosophical topics to other individuals.

Textbook

Primary Textbook

Gaarder, J., & Møller, P. (2015). *Sophie's world: A novel about the history of philosophy*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

Suggested References

Gaarder, J. (2015). *Sofie'nin dünyası*. (Sabir Yücesoy, Trans.). İstanbul: Pan (Original work published in 1991).

Godfrey-Smith, P. (2003). *Theory and reality: An introduction to the philosophy of science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Stumpf, S. E., & Fieser, J. (2012). *Philosophy: History and readings*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Planned Learning Activities and Teaching Methods

This course is conducted through discussions on the material presented in class and over the compulsory reading material. With this aim in mind, (a) regular lectures supported by visual presentations and (b) class discussions are used. These class discussions are designed in such a way to help students develop critical thinking skills and apply different perspectives to the material being presented.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your overall grade will be based on catalog system and contribution of each requirement you need to fulfill is as follows:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Assignments | 40% |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final | 30% |

Exams (1 midterm and 1 final) will consist of **multiple-choice questions** as well as several other types of questions such as **fill-in-the-blanks** and **open-ended questions**. They are designed to gauge your understanding of the covered material. You will not be allowed to use any books or notes or the like, i.e. the exam is "closed books".

There will be four assignments (10 points each) throughout the semester. They will be based on the topics covered in class. More specific information about the assignments will be announced in class. All assignments must be submitted with a cover page including your full name, ID number, title of assignment, and date. As for formatting, assignments should be typed using APA style (double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, and left-aligned – and don't forget the page numbers!). Please use spell-check and do proofreading to minimize carelessness errors. You should submit your assignments (to be handed in hard copy format) on announced date and time.

***And you should keep in mind that
the time to worry about your grade is before you have received a grade.***

| Letter Grade | Coefficient | Score Interval |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| A | 4,00 | |
| A- | 3,70 | |
| B+ | 3,30 | |
| B | 3,00 | |
| B- | 2,70 | |
| C+ | 2,30 | |
| C | 2,00 | |
| C- | 1,70 | |
| D+ | 1,30 | |
| D | 1,00 | |
| F1 | 0,00 | |
| F2 | 0,00 | |

Course Policies

- **Attendance:** You are expected to attend class on a regular basis, be on-time, and participate fully in class discussions and activities. University regulations will be taken as basis for attendance requirements. Since you will be responsible for all information covered in class, you should avoid making any vacation plans on class days during the semester and plan doctor's appointments, errands and the like after class time.
- **Class Readings:** You are expected to come to classes having read the assigned readings so that you can follow what is covered in class, participate in discussions effectively, and get more out of the lecture. All readings may not necessarily be discussed directly in class, but it is assumed that you will have read the materials as they will serve as basis for your participation.
- **Class Participation:** Class participation is an essential part of this course. Classes may involve interactive lectures, small group discussions and activities, audio-visuals, quizzes, and/or written assignments.
- **Lecture Notes:** Power Point slides will be made available after each week's class. You are expected to study from these lecture notes as they will be your main study tool. However, you are genuinely advised to take notes during lectures to improve your understanding of the topics

covered. You will also be responsible from additional reading materials from the suggested references for this course.

- **Late Assignment Submission Policy:** Each assignment is to be turned in on announced date and time. Arrangements for accepting late assignments will be made only in unusual circumstances (e.g., major illness, death of loved one), and only if you are able to provide documentation to support your excuse. Otherwise, late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Make-up Exam:** If you miss any midterm and/or final exam, you can only get a make-up if you present a valid official documentation of absence.
- **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is expected. Acts of academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, will be penalized according to university regulations.
 - You may neither receive help from nor give help to others during an in-class exam. During exams, you may not leave the room, talk, or use dictionaries, translators, cell phones or programmable calculators. And please keep your eyes on your own work.
 - Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a person passes off someone else's work as his or her own. This can range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's paper to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites to handing in a paper downloaded from the internet. All are plagiarism.
 - All parties to plagiarism are considered equally guilty. If you share your coursework with another student and s/he plagiarizes it, you are considered as guilty as the one who has plagiarized your work, since you enabled the plagiarism to take place. Under no circumstances should a student make his her coursework available to another student unless the instructor gives explicit permission for this to happen. Copying someone's work is an extreme and straightforward act of plagiarism. More commonly, however, students plagiarize without realizing they are doing so. This generally happens when a student fails to acknowledge the source of an idea or phrasing. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly!
- **Individual Integrity:** As the emotional safety of all students is crucial, I am committed to provide an environment of equality and respect for all members of the course and university community. In addition to unprofessional, unethical (e.g., plagiarism) or disruptive behaviors, discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and cultural background is not acceptable. Students who require accommodations due to a disability affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning or mental and physical health are advised to discuss their needs with me.
- **Environment of Mutual Respect:** An environment of respect fosters learning. I will always be respectful of your time, your learning, and your questions. Please behave professionally, respectfully, and courteously to your classmates and me. This includes (but is not limited to): cell phone use of any type, reading unrelated materials, talking, arriving late, and leaving early. Laptops are not allowed and cell phones should be off or on silent.

Online Resources

You can use the following online resources to as related to course content:

- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
(Please ensure you respect the Encyclopedia's citation policy)
<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

If you need assistance with or would like to improve your writing, you can use the following resources:

- The University of Manchester *Academic Phrasebank*
<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>
- American Psychological Association *APA Style*
<http://www.apastyle.org/>

*** The content of the syllabus is subject to change.

“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”
Søren Kierkegaard

PSK 107
Philosophy of Science

Tentative Class Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic | Readings |
|----------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 25.09.2017 | Introduction and Syllabus Review | |
| 2 | 02.10.2017 | Philosophy and Science | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 1 |
| 3 | 09.10.2017 | Logic plus Empiricism | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 2 |
| 4 | 16.10.2017 | Induction and Confirmation | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 3 |
| 5 | 23.10.2017 | Popper: Conjecture and Refutation | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 4 |
| 6 | 30.10.2017 | Kuhn, Normal Science, and Revolutions | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 5 & 6 |
| 7 | 06.11.2017 | Lakatos, Laudan, Feyerabend, and Frameworks | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 7 |
| 8 | 13.11.2017 | Midterm | |
| 9 | 20.11.2017 | Science, Sociology, and Feminism | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 8 & 9 |
| 10 | 27.11.2017 | *** No Class | |
| 11 | 04.12.2017 | Naturalism and Science | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 10 & 11 |
| 12 | 11.12.2017 | Scientific Realism and Explanation | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 12 & 13 |
| 13 | 18.12.2017 | Bayesianism and Modern Theories of Evidence | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 14 |
| 14 | 25.12.2017 | Empiricism, Naturalism, and Scientific Realism General Evaluation | Godfrey-Smith, Ch. 15 |
| January 4 – 16 | | Final | |

Important Note: Any changes to this tentative schedule will be announced in class.