Phil 125: Philosophy of Science  
Winter, 2017

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:20–6:55pm, Cowell Com 134

Contact Information
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Course Description
We will read some of the classic texts which created and set the stage for later developments within the subdiscipline now known as philosophy of science. The course will be divided into two halves, corresponding to two fundamentally different views about what makes science distinctively rational (due to Rudolf Carnap and Karl Popper); in each case we will also read important works which were taken to undermine the view in question.

Course Requirements
A midterm assignment (your choice of a take-home exam or a 6–10 page paper) due Tuesday, February 21, and a final assignment (your choice of a take-home exam or a 6–10 page paper), due Wednesday, March 22.

Texts
(This book is generally known as “the Aufbau,” following its original German title, *Der logische Aufbau der Welt.*)


The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine, and they will also be put on reserve at McHenry. Readings not from texts on the above list, if any, will be available on eCommons.

**Readings**

Tuesday, January 10: (no reading, first class).

**Part I: Carnap/Goodman/Quine**

Thursday, January 12: Carnap, *Aufbau*, Preface to 1st Edition (pp. xv–xviii); §§1–5 (pp. 5–10); §§17–25 (pp. 31–43).

Tuesday, January 17: Carnap, *Aufbau*, §§26–41 (pp. 47–70); §§46–60 (pp. 78–97).

Thursday, January 19: Carnap, *Aufbau*, §67 (pp. 107–9); §§95–6 (pp. 152–4); §§98–103 (pp. 156–63); §§125–8 (pp. 194–9); §157 (p. 246); §§160–61 (pp. 254–7); §§165–9 (pp. 263–72).


Tuesday, January 31: “The Methodological Character of Theoretical Concepts,” §§1-6, beginning of §7 (through the paragraph that ends on top of p. 54), and §§8–10; Putnam, “What Theories Are Not.”

Thursday, February 2: Goodman, Fact, Fiction, and Forecast, §§2–3 (pp. 31–83).

Tuesday, February 7: Goodman, Fact, Fiction, and Forecast, §4 (pp. 84–124).

Thursday, February 9: Quine, “Epistemology Naturalized.”

Part II: Popper/Kuhn

Tuesday, February 14: Popper, LSD, ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 3–34).

Thursday, February 16: Popper, LSD ch. 3 (pp. 37–56).

Tuesday, February 21: Popper, LSD, ch. 4 (pp. 57–73) (and Midterm assignment — exam or paper — due).

Thursday, February 23: Popper, LSD, ch. 5 (pp. 74–94).

Tuesday, February 28: Popper, LSD, ch. 10 beginning and §79 (pp. 248–52); §82 (pp. 264–7); §84 through end (including Addendum), pp. 273–82.

Thursday, March 2: Neurath, “Pseudorationalism of Falsification”; Putnam “The ‘Corroboration’ of Theories”; Lakatos, “Popper on Demarcation and Induction,” through end of part I (pp. 241–52).

Tuesday, March 7: Kuhn, SSR, ch. 1–5, pp. 1–51.

Thursday, March 9: Kuhn, SSR, ch. 6–8, pp. 52–91.

Tuesday, March 14: Kuhn, SSR, ch. 9–10, pp. 92–135.
Thursday, March 16: Kuhn, *SSR*, ch. 11–13, pp. 136–73.

Wednesday, March 22: Final assignment — exam or paper — due.