

Course Outline PHIL232 Philosophy of Science

Lecturers

Elizabeth Schier

Email: elizabeth.schier@adelaide.edu.au

Office: W6A 740

Phone: 9850 8858

Consultation: Tues 12-2, Friday 3-4pm or by appointment.

John Sutton

Email: jsutton@scmp.mq.edu.au

Office: W6A 725

Phone: 9850 8817

Consultation: Tuesday 2.30-4pm. Wednesday 11-12.30 or by appointment.

Classes

You need to attend both lectures and one tutorial. Tutorials do not start until the second week.

Lectures	Tuesday 3pm	CA4 312
	Friday 10am	W6B 325
Tutorials	Tuesday 4pm	C3B 306
	Or	
	Friday 11am	C3B 306

Assessment

Tutorial attendance and preparation 20%

Attendance at and preparation for tutorials is compulsory. Each week you will need to hand up a ½-1 page summary of the arguments in the assigned reading. This is *due at the time of your tutorial*.

Two Small Essays (1200 words each) (20% each) 40%

1st Due Friday 31st August

2nd Due Friday 28th September

Major Essay (2500 words) 40%

Due Friday 16th November

Readings

For the first part of the course you will need a copy of:

Alan Chalmers (1999) *What is this Thing Called Science?* 3rd Edition, Queensland University Press.

This can be obtained from the uni bookshop. Also keep an eye out for second-hand copies. A copy will also be put on reserve in the library.

Thereafter the compulsory readings for each tutorial will be available on e-reserve.

Recommended Readings

See the list of items in reserve for the course

Paul Feyerabend, (1993) *Against Method* 3rd edition, Verso Books

Ian Hacking, *Representing and Intervening* Cambridge U.P.

Thomas Kuhn, (1996) *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd edn, Chicago University press

Course Structure

Elizabeth Schier

Weeks 1-3 Is there a scientific method?

Weeks 4-5 Can science give us objective knowledge?

Weeks 6-7 How do scientific explanations work?

Mid-semester break

John Sutton:

Weeks 8-10 Can science tell us how the world really is?

Elizabeth Schier

Weeks 11-12 What is the relation between scientific theories?

Weeks 12-13 What is science telling us about the organisation of the world?