

PIU11012/42 | Topics in Philosophy 1B

Credit:	10 ECTS
Contact Hours:	22 Hours of Lectures, 10 Hours of Seminars
Pre-requisite:	N/A
Semester:	Trinity
Module Leader	
Contact E-mail:	downeyad@tcd.ie
Room Number:	5006
Office Hours:	TBC

Scientific Methodology

Module Outline:

In this component of the module, we shall encounter a range of core ideas in the philosophy of science— concerning things like how does science operate in practice, the nature of scientific explanation, the role of values in science, how and when theory-change occurs, and so on— via countenancing the question ‘what, if anything, is the methodology of science?’.

Learning Outcomes:

Students shall:

- gain an excellent grounding in the ‘nuts and bolts’ of philosophy of science
- learn how to philosophically appraise scientific theses
- gain the knowledge and skills requisite for engaging in further, independent study of the philosophy of science.

Recommended Reading List

As advised/circulated by lecturer during the lecture series.

Embodied Cognition

Module Outline:

In this second component of the module students will get to grips with the basics of Embodied Cognition, a (relatively) new research programme in the philosophy and cognitive science of mind which has broached excitement and controversy in equal measure. Topics covered shall include: how traditional cognitive science has/does proceed; the commitments of research programmes intermediate between traditional and embodied cognitive science; and, why proponents of embodied cognition take the body and/or environment to be constitutive of mind, and whether they are well-advised to do so.

Learning Outcomes:

Students shall learn:

- the nature of cognitive science writ large and, relatedly, the historical trajectory of thought resulting in the (relatively recent) emergence of the embodied cognitive science paradigm.
- how to critically assess, in an empirically informed manner, cognitive science adjacent philosophical theses.

Assessment:

- 1 Essay Question (50%)
- 1 Exam Question (50%)