

PIU22991 | History, Philosophy, and Ethics of Science For the Life Sciences

Credits: 5 ECTS

Contact Hours: 22 Hours of lectures, 10 Hours of Tutorials

Pre-requisite: N/A

Semester: Michaelmas

Module Leader

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Room Number: 5006

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Lecturer(s): Professor Linda Hogan

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Module Outline:

In this course, we shall survey core topics in the philosophy of science— for instance: what the methodology of science is; the nature of scientific explanation; Kuhn’s ideas about theory-change/paradigm shifts in science; the role of values in science; scientific (anti-)realism— from a ‘bird’s eye’ view, thereby accruing a strong understanding of what philosophy of science is and why it can be useful for scientific practise.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- 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.

Assessment:

- 3x Written Responses of 750 words [25% each]
- 7 discussion posts of 100-150 words [15%]
- Attendance at and participation in tutorials [10%]