

Phil 9245A: Survey: Philosophy of Science in Perspective (DiSalle)

This is a survey of the central issues in modern philosophy of science, both in contemporary debates, and in historical perspective, as they have evolved through the interaction between philosophy and the sciences over the last few centuries. Topics to be discussed will include realism, scientific representation, conceptual change, the nature of evidence, criteria of meaning, and the structure of scientific theories; readings will be drawn from contemporary literature, and from historical figures such as Newton, Kant, Darwin, Mach, Poincaré, Einstein, Carnap, and Quine.