

# Philosophy 0990

## The Structure of Scientific Revolutions

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### Course Structure and Requirements

The course will meet Wednesdays from 3-5.20 in Smith-Buonanno Hall 207. Class meetings will consist primarily of student presentations and discussion. It is critical that *all* students come to class have read and thought about the material to be discussed that week.

We will be reading two books during the class: Thomas Kuhn's *The Copernican Revolution* and Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. There will also be some other readings—articles—that will be made available on-line.

Each student will be expected to present some of the material to the class and the lead discussion of that material. There will be two papers for the course: a shorter paper to be written in conjunction with one's presentation and a longer, final paper. The shorter paper should be about 3–5 pages; the longer one, about 15–20 pages. The topic for the longer paper is to be chosen by the student but should be approved by the instructor no later than 28 November. The paper is due 12 December—the last day of reading period.

### Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. Previous exposure to philosophy, however, will be very, very useful—and, in practice, that means some previous course in philosophy. Students who have had no formal training in philosophy should probably speak to the instructor before committing to take the course.

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## Syllabus

5 September 2007	Introductory meeting
12 September 2007	<i>The Copernican Revolution</i> , chs. 1–3
19 September 2007	<i>The Copernican Revolution</i> , chs. 4–5
25 September 2007	<i>The Copernican Revolution</i> , chs. 6–7
3 October 2007	C. P. Hempel, “Aspects of Scientific Explanation”, §§1, 2, and 4
10 October 2007	Thomas Kuhn, “The Function of Measurement in Physical Science” (and, possibly, also “The Essential Tension”)
17 October 2007	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , chs. 1–3
24 October 2007	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , chs. 4–6
31 October 2007	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , chs. 7–8
7 November 2007	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , chs. 9–11
14 November 2007	<i>The Structure of Scientific Revolutions</i> , chs. 12–13
21 November 2007	No Class: Thanksgiving
28 November 2007	Hartry Field, “Theory-change and the Indeterminacy of Reference” and TBA
5 December 2007	TBA (something radical and Kuhn)