

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-2016**

Philosophy 1030B: students who want to gain an appreciation of the place of science in our lives. It is the source of information about safety and risks that are relevant to society. Yet many people find science disquieting, a source of wonder of nature. Moreover, many people mistrust the results of scientific studies? What is the relationship between science and society? What is the role and value of science in a democratic society?

TEXTS

Assigned readings available on the course OWL site.

OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will learn to critically read and assess the reliability of reports in the media about science. They will be able to identify the main schools of thought on the distinction between science and non-science, and on the value of science.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and active participation in class discussion; two short (2–3 pp) written assignments; 3 tests. If there is enough interest, students may elect to substitute participation in an in-class debate for one of the written assignments.

x Written Assignments:

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|--------------------|-----|
| # 1 (Due Sept. 25) | 10% |
| # 2 (Due Nov. 6) | 10% |
| # 3 (Due Dec. 9) | 10% |

x Tests:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Test 1 (Oct. 9) | 20% |
| Test 2 (Nov. 20) | 20% |
| Test 3 (TBA, exam period) | 30% |

Assignments are to be handed in by 3:45 PM on the due date. If you are unable to hand your assignment directly to the instructor, place it in the Philosophy Department drop-off box, which is on the first floor of Stevenson Hall. Make sure that your student number and the instructor's name are on your