

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18**

**Philosophy Course Number: PHIL 2300  
Philosophy of Science**

**Winter Term  
Monday – 2:30-4:30  
Wednesday – 2:30-3:30  
AHB 2B04**

**Instructor: Eric Desjardins  
Office: Stv. Hall 2137,  
Office Hours: TBA  
edesjar3@uwo.ca**

**DESCRIPTION**

This introduction to philosophy of science explores how philosophical questions are linked to sciences. Over the course of the semester we will look at examples of success and failure in science and reflect on issues such as: 1) the nature of scientific knowledge, 2) writing balanced and well-supported argumentative essays, 3) leading a focused discussion on issues related to reading materials, and 4) presenting and challenging ideas in a respectful and constructive way.

## REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will be based upon the following scheme:

1. **Mid-term paper** (6-8 pages) on an issue of your choice discussed during the first half of the course. Due by the end of week 10 (30%) Make sure to look at the guideline for writing philosophical paper on OWL.
2. **Term paper** (10-12 pages) on an issue of your choice discussed during the second half of the semester. Due by the last day of regular class (40%) Make sure to look at the guideline for writing philosophical paper on OWL.
3. **Issue of the week**  
Every Wednesday a new topic will be introduced by the instructor. Students will then have to read the material related to the topic and formulate an interesting and engaging

