

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Syllabi

Course Syllabi

Spring 2-1-2000

PHIL 480.01: Explaining Explanation

Albert Borgmann

University of Montana-Missoula, albert.borgmann@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Borgmann, Albert, "PHIL 480.01: Explaining Explanation" (2000). *Syllabi*. 5325.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/5325>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Explaining Explanation

I. Readings

We will read these texts in the following sequence and spend about five weeks on each.

Lambert and Brittan, An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science.
Dawkins, The Blind Watchmaker
Green, The Elegant Universe

II. Course Requirements

A. Seminar Presentations and Participation (50% of course grade)

The members of the seminar will take turns in presenting outlines of the readings or of special topics. The presentations of the outlines need to be clear and succinct and must be limited to twenty minutes. The quality of the presentations and of the participation in class will determine half of the course grade.

B. Seminar Paper (50% of course grade)

During the first third of the seminar, each member should, in consultation with the instructor, determine a project for the seminar paper. The sources for the paper are the readings and discussions in class and some additional research. (I will be glad to steer you toward material that bears on your topic.) The paper should be 20 pp. (5000 words) long, more or less. The paper or a draft of it will be presented during the last two weeks or on the day of the final of the semester (Monday, May 8, 8:00-10:00 am). The paper will count for the other half of the course grade.

III. Course Intent

The course is to provide knowledge of the standard modes of explanation in philosophy, science, and in the culture at large and of the limits of these kinds of explanation.

IV. Please Note

February 11 is the last day to add or drop classes by DIAL BEAR.
March 6 is the last day to add or drop classes or change the grading option.
Office Hours: MWF, 8:10-9:00 am or by appointment.
Phone and messages: 243 2792
If you have a disability, please let me know so that we can provide accommodation.