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PHIL 501.01: Kuhn and Post-Kuhnian Philosophy of Science

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Philosophy 501

Kuhn and Post-Kuhnian Philosophy of Science

Fall 2001

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LA 146
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Class: R 5:10-8:00;
Office Hours: W 3:15-5:00
& by appt.

Course Description

After a close reading of Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*, we will focus on a variety of subsequent developments in philosophy of science – including Sociology of Science, Feminist Philosophy of Science, and Science Studies – paying special attention to how faithfully they represent Kuhn's views and how adequately they respond to problems and challenges bequeathed by Kuhn and his followers. The central dilemma to be addressed is how different thinkers attempt to carve out a viable theoretical space between the two extremes of relativism and anti-realism, on the one hand, and a traditional positivist view of scientific development, on the other. To the extent that a theory tends towards the former extreme, it buys originality at the price of coherence; and to the extent that it tends towards the latter, it retains coherence at the price of originality. Can any of the many new and promising views in philosophy of science beginning with Kuhn make good on the promise of being both original and coherent?

Texts

Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* [SSR], Third Edition, University of Chicago Press (1962, 1970, 1996)

Xeroxed Readings: On Reserve in the Philosophy Department Office (LA101).

Requirements

In addition to doing the readings and participating in seminar discussions, students will be asked to write 3 short papers (5 pp.) and one longer paper (12-15 pages). Topics will be assigned for the short papers. For the final paper, topics will be suggested but students may write on a topic of their own choosing *with approval from the instructor*. Final Papers are due Tuesday, December 18 by 4:00 PM. Turn final papers in to the Philosophy Department

Office (LA101). Due dates for short papers will be announced in class. *No late papers will be accepted.*

Reading Assignments

Kuhn and his Critics/Followers

- Sept 13** Thomas Kuhn: *SSR*, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 1-51)
- Sept 20** Thomas Kuhn: *SSR*, Ch. 6-9 (pp. 52-110)
- Sept 27** Thomas Kuhn: *SSR*, Ch. 10-13 (pp. 111-173)
- Oct 4** Thomas Kuhn: *SSR*, Postscript (pp. 174-210)
Thomas Kuhn: Objectivity, Value Judgment, and Theory Choice (1977)
- Oct 11** Imre Lakatos: from Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes (1970)
- Oct 18** Larry Laudan: A Problem-Solving Approach to Scientific Progress (1981)
Larry Laudan: Dissecting the Holist Picture of Scientific Change (1984)
- Oct 25** Paul Feyerabend: Consolations for the Specialist (1970)
Paul Feyerabend: from *Against Method* (1975)

Sociology of Science

- Nov 1** Barry Barnes and David Bloor: Relativism, Rationalism, and the Sociology of Knowledge (1982)
- Nov 8** Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar: An Anthropologist Visits the Laboratory (1986)
Bruno Latour: One More Turn After the Social Turn...(1992)

Feminist Philosophy of Science

- Nov 15** Sandra Harding: from *The Science Question in Feminism* (1986)
- Nov 29** Helen Longino: from *Science as Social Knowledge* (1990)
- Dec 6** Donna Haraway: Situated Knowledges (1988)
Evelyn Fox Keller: Feminism and Science (1987)

Science Studies

Dec 13 Ian Hacking: Making Up People (1986)
Arnold Davidson: Styles of Reasoning, Conceptual History, and
the Emergence of Psychiatry (1996)