

INTEG 475 / PHIL 458 / PHIL 673  
**SOCIALLY RELEVANT PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

TUES. 2:30-5:30PM; EV2 2069

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*(Note: Please include your course number in the email subject line)*

### Course Description

This course looks at a burgeoning area in philosophy called “socially relevant philosophy of science” (or SRPOS). In short, SRPOS includes work in philosophy of science that addresses socially relevant issues (e.g., race and gender in scientific research), and which engages a wide variety of stakeholder groups (e.g., policy makers or lay publics) or is disseminated to broader venues (e.g., scientific communities or popular media). Much of the work in SRPOS grows out of work in feminist philosophy of science, as we will discuss, though it can be broader in its analysis. In this course, we will read and discuss recent work in this area, including both programmatic pieces (those that describe and advocate for the importance of SRPOS) as well as exemplars of it.

### Expected Course Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to do the following:

- Explain what socially relevant philosophy of science is
- Identify and discuss major themes in socially relevant philosophy of science
- Critically read and reflect on primary literature in philosophy of science
- Write expository and evaluative philosophical prose

### Required Readings on D2L (“Learn”)

There is no required text for this course. Almost all of the readings will be posted on the course website in D2L (“Learn”) under eReserves. You will also find links to each reading under the Content tab, though you must be on the UW server to access them this way. Please download, print, and bring the readings with you to class. *Note that changes may be made to the readings and that the list included here (see below) is only a partial one.*

### Work Required

INTEG 475/PHIL 458	PHIL 673	Percentage
Participation	Participation	20%
Weekly papers (3 commentaries + 5 discussion notes)	Weekly papers (10 discussion notes)	30%
Term paper (4000 words) due December 14	Term paper (5000 words) due December 14	50%

## Participation

Participation will be based on the quantity and quality of in-class discussion, contributions to the online discussion forum, and attendance.

## Weekly Papers

Each week you will be expected to submit a one-page paper (approx. 300 words) on the assigned reading(s). These will form the basis for class discussions. Weekly papers should be submitted in the appropriate dropbox in D2L ("Learn") and are due at **noon on the Monday before class**. Papers will be assessed on a check/check-plus/check-minus basis, with "in between" grades used on occasion. These will be translated into a numerical grade at the end of the course. Late papers will be accepted until noon on the day of class, though they will be assessed a late penalty (e.g., from a check to a check-minus). Please note that **I will upload everyone's paper to the course website on Monday afternoon** so that you may read each other's work, time-permitting. You are encouraged but not expected to do so.

- **INTEG 475 / PHIL 458 students:** You are expected to write three commentaries (weeks 2, 3, and 4) and five discussion notes (during weeks 5-11). Commentaries should summarize the author's main point(s) (or focus on one that interests you most) and respond to it in a critical way. Discussion notes, on the other hand, contain little if any summary, but rather engage more deeply with the reading(s) by identifying and discussing a philosophical problem or issue in the paper(s).
- **PHIL 673 students:** You are expected to write ten weekly papers (for all but the first and last week) in the form of a discussion note; that is, an analytical piece that engages with the reading in a philosophical way (for example, you might discuss a conceptual problem, or an underlying assumption in the author's main argument, etc.).

## Term paper

Term papers can be on any topic of your choosing that is related to an issue or issues covered in the course. A short topic description, brief outline, and partial bibliography are due by the beginning of class on **November 22**. The final paper is due at **4:30pm on December 14** in the appropriate dropbox on Learn. Late papers will be accepted until December 19, but will be assessed a late penalty of 5 percentage points for each day, or part of a day, that the paper is late, including weekends. Exceptions can be made in extreme circumstances.

- **INTEG 475 / PHIL 458 students:** Your paper should be 3500 to 4000 words (12-15 pages, double spaced).
- **PHIL 673 students:** Your paper should be about 5000 words (20 pages, double spaced).

## Partial List of Required Readings

Douglas, Heather (2010), "Engagement for Progress: applied philosophy of science in context." *Synthese*, 177(3): 317-336.

Fehr, Carla (2011), "Feminist engagement with evolutionary psychology." Forthcoming in *Hypatia*.

Fehr, Carla, and Kathryn S. Plaisance (2010), "Socially relevant philosophy of science: an introduction." *Synthese*, 177(3): 301-316.

Gannett, Lisa (2010), "Questions asked and unasked: how by worrying less about the 'really real' philosophers of science might better contribute to debates about genetics and race." *Synthese*, 177(3): 363-386.

Grasswick, Heidi (2010), "Scientific and lay communities: earning epistemic trust through

- knowledge sharing." *Synthese*, 177(3): 387-410.
- Reiss, Julian (2010), "In favor of a Millian proposal to reform biomedical reform." *Synthese*, 177(3): 427-448.
- Richardson, Sarah (2010), "Feminist philosophy of science: history, contributions, and challenges." *Synthese*, 177(3): 337-362.
- Shrader-Frechette, Kristin (2010), "Conceptual analysis and special-interest science: toxicology and the case of Edward Calabrese." *Synthese*, 177(3): 449-470.
- Tuana, Nancy (2010), "Leading with ethics, aiming for policy: new opportunities for philosophy of science." *Synthese* 177(3): 471-492.
- Whyte, Kyle P., and Robert P. Crease (2010), "Trust, expertise, and the philosophy of science." *Synthese*, 177(3): 411-426.

- ◆ **Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
- ◆ **Religious Observances:** Please inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.
- ◆ **Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)
- ◆ Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/>
- ◆ **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.
- ◆ **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm)
- ◆ **Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Sept 13	Course Overview	
2	Sept 20	Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science: Overview & Shari Greydon lecture (Women Experts: MIA)	Fehr & Plaisance
3	Sept 27	Feminist engagement with evolutionary psychology	Fehr
4	Oct 4	Applied philosophy of science in context	Douglas + TBD
5	Oct 11	Feminist philosophy of science	Richardson + TBD
6	Oct 18	How philosophers of science can better contribute to debates about race and genetics	Gannett + TBD
7	Oct 25	Epistemic trust between scientific and lay communities	Grasswick + Whyte&Crease
8	Nov 1	Reforming biomedical research	Reiss + TBD
9	Nov 8	Conceptual analysis and special-interest science	Schrader-Frechette + TBD
10	Nov 15	Ethics, policy, and the philosophy of science	Tuana + TBD
11	Nov 22	SRPOS in popular media	TBD
12	Nov 29	(To be determined)	TBD
	Dec 14	<i>(Term paper due at 4:30pm)</i>	