HU 3700 R01 – Fall 2010
Philosophy of Science
Fisher Hall, Rm. 127
3:35 – 4:50pm
Professor David W. Rödick

Purpose: To introduce the student to various philosophical accounts of the methodology of science.

Required Texts:
John Dewey, The Quest for Certainty
Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions
Richard Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism

Course Requirements
- Class Participation / Engagement (10%)
- Mid-term and Final exams: Essay format (60%)
- 2 discussion papers: Topics to be assigned—3-4 pages (30%)
- MTU grading standard will be utilized:
  A: 93-100; AB: 88-93; B: 83-88; BC: 78-83; C: 73-78; CD: 68-73; D: 60-68; F: 0-60.

Tentative Class Schedule
8/31: Class Introduction
9/2: Dewey (Chapters I & II)
9/7: Dewey (III & IV)
9/9: Dewey (V&VI)
9/14: Dewey (VII &VIII)
9/16: Dewey (IX & X)
9/21: Dewey (XI) Conclude Dewey / Transition to Kuhn
9/23: Kuhn: (I & II)
9/28: Kuhn: (III & IV)
9/30: Kuhn: (IV & V)
10/5: Kuhn: (VI, VII, VIII)
10/7: Kuhn: (IX & X)
10/12: Kuhn: (XI & XII)
10/14: Kuhn: (XIII) Conclude Kuhn
10/19: Transition to Bernstein – Mid-term Exams due in Class!
10/21: Bernstein (pp. ix – 30)
10/26: Bernstein (30 – 49)
10/28: Bernstein (51 – 71)
11/2: Bernstein (71 – 108)
11/4: Bernstein (109 – 139)
11/9: Bernstein (139-165)
11/11: Bernstein (165 – 197)
11/16: Bernstein (197 - 207) Short video on Rorty.
11/18: Bernstein (207 – 223)
11/30 Bernstein (223 – 231) Conclude Bernstein
12/2 Patrick Heelan (Handout)
12/7 Gaston Bachelard (Handout)
12/9: Last Class / Conclusions / Questions / Reactions

Note: Final Exam due at 334 Walker no later than 4pm December 14th!!!
Administrative Information

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursday, 2-3pm and by appointment.

Academic Dishonesty (University Policy)

According to University policy, "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited and includes the following violations: Plagiarism—copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation. Cheating—intentional use of any unauthorized study aids, equipment, or another's work during an academic exercise. Fabrication—intentional falsification or invention of any information or citation during an academic exercise without proper authorization. Facilitating academic dishonesty—allowing or helping another individual to plagiarize, cheat, or fabricate information. Penalty: not less than academic integrity warning, not more than expulsion."

(http://www.admin.mtu.edu/ods/rights/regulations.html)

This policy (stated above) will be followed in this course. At a minimum, graded work that involves plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication (as defined above) will receive a grade of zero, and no opportunity will be afforded to make up the work. Computer software may be used to detect plagiarism.

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with certain medical and psychological disabilities. You should notify the course instructor at the beginning of the semester if you wish to request such accommodations.

Professional Courtesy

- Make every attempt to arrive on time;
- Notify me in advance if you must leave class early;
- No texting;
- No side conversations (please direct your comments to the entire class.)
- Exhibit behavior appropriate for university-level education.

Make this class a vital part of your educational experience!