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Date of Prior Revisions:: March 2006  
Date of Current Revision: June 2007

C: PHIL 2280

**M:** Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

The general objectives of the course are:

1. To introduce students to a philosophical approach to scientific thought and the application of scientific thought to social and political problems
2. To encourage students to reflect critically about the ways that scientific ideas and institutions influence ideas and institutions in the wider society, as well as society's economic, political, cultural and moral ideals
3. To enable students to develop more effective methods for making up their own minds about issues involving scientific input to societal institutions as well as social problems and issues.

Specific learning outcomes: by the end of the course, successful students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature of scientific theory and explanation, as well as apprehend the reasons for scientific controversies, including inappropriate biases in science
2. Explain and analyze the role of scientific explanation in social contexts, especially in those controversies and disagreements that have arisen when social institutions turn to the sciences for information required to deal with societal goals
3. Apply the philosophical analyses developed to the kinds of problems raised by the appropriation of scientific knowledge by non-scientific social institutions and by society at large, including the assessment of public perceptions of science
4. Explain the concepts and reasoning involved by those philosophical frameworks employed to analyse the relationship between science and society



**Q:** Means of Assessment

Evaluation will be based upon course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College