**PHIL 399 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

**FALL 2021**

**Instructor:** Gürol Irzık FASS 1049

**Class Hours:** TBA

**Office hours:** Th 16:30 or by appointment

**Course description:** This course focuses on three of the most influential philosophers of science: Popper, Kuhn, and Lakatos. We shall critically examine in depth their images of science through their most important works listed below.

**Lecture Format:** The course will be conducted online. Lectures will be live and recorded. I will upload them to the Google drive in the SUCourse+. Attendance is required.

**Grading Policy:** The course grade will be based on attendance and class participation (25%), outline of the term paper (15%), a draft of the term paper (20%), and the final version of the term paper (40%). Due dates for these will be indicated as we go along during the semester. The final version of the term paper will be submitted at the end of the semester and should be around 15 pages, double-spaced and 12 fonts.

**Required readings** are available on the SUCourse+. You are also advised to use the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy freely available online at <http://plato.stanford.edu/> **You should do the required readings** **before the class meeting so that we can have an informed and fruitful discussion**.

Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Course Readings**

K. Popper, “Science: Conjectures and Refutations”, in *Conjectures and Refutations*, Harper and Torch books, 1963, pp. 33-59.

K. Popper, “The Aim of Science” in *Objective Knowledge*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975, pp. 191-205.

K. Popper, “Evolution and the Tree of Knowledge” in *Objective Knowledge*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975, pp. 256-265.

T. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, in *Philosophy of Science* (eds) T. McGrew, M. Alspector-Kelly and F. Allhoff, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

T. Kuhn, “Objectivity, Value Judgement, and Theory Choice”, in *The Essential Tension*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1977, pp. 320-339.

I. Lakatos, “Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Program”, in The Methodology of Scientific Research Program, Philosophical Papers, vol. 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978, pp. 8-101.

 (This reading can also be found in Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge, eds. I. Lakatos and A. Musgrave, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974.)

A. Chalmers, *What is this Thing Called Science?* 2nd ed. Queensland: The University of Queensland Press, 1982, chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.