PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
Timothy M. Devinney (Leeds University Business School)

Dates:
1st session:
07.09.2015, 09:00–16:00
08.09.2015, 09:00–16:00
09.09.2015, 09:00–16:00

2nd session:
21.10.2015, 09:00–16:00
22.10.2015, 09:00–16:00

Lecturer
Timothy M. Devinney (Leeds University Business School)

Overview
This course is concerned with the nature of social science inquiry. It is intended for students in the business and management disciplines and those early in their masters and doctoral research program. The course will take the form of a seminar. Students will be pre-assigned readings and will lead the discussion. The course is broken into four sections:
(1) an introductory overview to the philosophy of science,
(2) a review of epistemology (the nature and scope of knowledge),
(3) a review of ontology (the what can be said to exist), and
(4) specific applications to the major disciplinary areas.

Objectives
The main objectives of the course are:
(1) to introduce the philosophy of science and its application to social science,
(2) to outline major differing classes of theory in social science and to explicate their meta-theoretical foundations,
(3) to familiarize students with the plurality of views on these issues in the intellectual community,
(4) to provide students with an opportunity to apply these concepts to the analysis of issues in social science, and
(5) to provide students with an opportunity to practise scholarly discourse.

Assessment
The assessment for this course will be based 40% on class participation/presentations and 60% on two written assignments. Upon completion of the required assignments students receive 6 credits (‘Leistungspunkte’).

For the first assignment, each student will be assigned one/two reading(s) in the epistemology or ontology components of the course. For each of these papers: (1) you are to prepare a short overview of the assigned paper (500 words) plus a discussion of relevance of that paper to thinking in your chosen field (500 words) and (2) two power point slides summarizing your overview and two power point slides summarizing the relevance to your field. For the second assignment you will be assigned one/two readings relevant to your area
from readings in the **disciplinary application** component of the course. You are to write an essay reviewing and evaluating critically the discussion in the assigned readings. This essay is restricted to 2,000 words.

**Schedule**

The schedule below is indicative of the topics and timing. The classes in September will follow the schedule over three full days. The final sessions in October will focus on applications and the participants’ work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Course Introduction; Philosophy of (Social) Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Philosophy of (Social) Science; Science &amp; Pseudoscience</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Induction; Falsification</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Paradigms &amp; Programs; Anarchistic Theory</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Bayesianism; Experimentation</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Causation, Explanation &amp; the Laws of Nature</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Realism and Rationalism</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Functionalism &amp; Individualism; Hermeneutics &amp; Critical Theory</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Conclusion (1/2 Class) + Catch-up</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Economics, Finance &amp; Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Law &amp; Society; Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Management</td>
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**Literature**


Students will be pre-assigned readings pertaining at least one topic (see above) and will lead the corresponding discussion. Please further note that all participants are required to purchase an own copy of A.F. Chalmers’ “What is this thing called Science?” (approx. 20,-€). All other readings will be available in the course package (provided in advance).

**Registration**

To register for this seminar please contact Timo Mandler (timo.mandler@uni-hamburg.de). Registration is open till 31st July 2015 and is on a first come, first serve basis.