

## Phil 160 ("Philosophy of Science") overview

### *Instructor information:*

Prof. Janet D. Stemwedel                      Dept. of Philosophy, FOB 232  
Email: [jstemwed@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:jstemwed@email.sjsu.edu)    Office phone: 408-924-4521  
Office Hours: Tu Th 9 - 10 am, or by appointment.

### *Class meetings:*

Section 1: Tu Th 10:30 am – 11:45 am, BBC 222  
Section 2: Tu Th 1:30 pm – 2:45 am, BBC 203

*Course website:* [http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160\\_home.html](http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160_home.html)

*Desire2Learn:* <http://sjsu.desire2learn.com>

Your Desire2Learn username can be found by logging into your mySJSU account. Click on **Self Service > Campus Personal Information > Names**, and locate your Desire2Learn name (look for Name Type called D2L) from the list. Your initial D2L password is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

*D2L help:* <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/>

*Course description:* This course will explore what science is, what it does, and how it works. We will examine: the features of its methodology which distinguish science from pseudo-science; how theoretical considerations and experiments interact to shape the scientific picture of the world; how scientific theories evolve and how theories from different scientific disciplines are related; and whether science does or should purport to give us a literally true picture of the world. We will consider not only what is peculiar to the culture of science, but also how this scientific culture fits into the culture of the larger society. (GE Area R)

### *Course requirements and grading:*

**5 reading response essays**, 400 words each (lowest grade dropped, 25%)  
**Midterm exam** (20%) and **final exam** (30%)  
**"Journal club" research assignments**, in groups on D2L (15%)  
**Class participation** (10%)

Reading Response #1 due in class Tu Sep. 14

### *Required texts:*

Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Theory and Reality: an Introduction to the Philosophy of Science* (PGS)  
Phil 160 Course Reader -available for purchase at Maple Press  
(481 E. San Carlos St.)

### **FINAL EXAM:**

Sec 01: Fri Dec. 17, 9:45 AM-12:00 PM    Sec 02: Mon Dec. 13, 12:15-2:30 PM

*Greensheet:* [http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160F10\\_greensheet.html](http://www.stemwedel.org/phil160F10_greensheet.html)