COURSE DESCRIPTION: The philosophy of science addresses questions about the nature and methods of science, about conceptual and foundational issues within the various sciences, and about the broader implications of scientific research. Specific topics may vary, but students will be introduced to competing views of the nature of scientific reasoning, learn to think critically about important scientific developments, and consider some of the ethical, social, political, and religious issues which they raise.

TEXTS:


REQUIREMENTS:

Participation (20%)
Weekly Review Exercises (50%)
One 5-7 page paper (30%)

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Do not miss more than one class session. Your attendance is very important to your studies at the University. Nonattendance or lack of participation in class will be considered during the grading process. Two missed classes (or major portions of those classes) will yield an automatic “F” for the course.

LATE HOMEWORK: Assignments are to be completed and submitted at the start of each class meeting. Assignments not turned in on time are considered late. Late assignments will be accepted only one week after the due date, after which time the assignment will not be accepted. Only up to two assignments may be turned in late during the duration of the class.

PARTICIPATION: Both lecture and classroom activities are organized to maximize student involvement in the learning process. You will be evaluated on your comprehension of the material, as well as, your ability to communicate effectively with others in determining solutions to complex problems.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to develop critical thinking. Students will read and interpret classical and contemporary philosophical texts; discuss topics relevant to religion, philosophy, ethics, and scientific methodology; consider alternative systems of thought impartially, recognizing and assessing assumptions, implications and practical consequences; write clearly and insightfully; and reflectively integrate abstract ideas with the concrete dimensions of his or her experience.

Student Success Center
The Student Success Center (SSC), located in the Campus Center, is dedicated to supporting students' academic success at NDNU. The SSC provides writing and subject tutoring, test proctoring for students with accommodations, facilitates the math placement test (MPT), and is open for students from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. with business hours from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The goal of the Student Success Center is to promote student learning and academic innovation. Professional staff members, peer tutors, academic advisors, and faculty work together to promote a supportive educational environment. Writing and subject tutoring schedules are forwarded directly to students' NDNU e-mails and are included in the Student Weekly Update circulated by NDNU's Communications Department.

Writing labs are offered in lower and upper division English courses. Writing tutoring is available on a drop-in basis and virtual writing tutoring is by appointment for our off-campus sites. Basic English language assistance is provided to international students who may need support writing papers or with general English. A writing lab dedicated to both APA and MLA writing styles is also offered. Math, computer science, and the sciences subject tutoring are led by peer tutors and a professional math tutor. Subjects, schedules, and tutor details are available at the Student Success Center.

Disability Resource Center
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Please meet with the DRC staff to verify your eligibility for any classroom accommodations and for academic assistance related to your disability. Accommodations are not provided retroactively. The Disability Resource Center is located at St Joseph Hall, 117. Please contact the DRC by email at DRC@ndnu.edu or by phone at 650-508-3670.
The mission of Counseling Services is to promote and enhance the overall wellbeing of students so that they may reach their potential for personal growth and academic success. Counseling Services is open Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm, and currently enrolled students are welcome to call, email or drop-by to schedule an appointment.

Course Evaluations/Teaching Effectiveness Surveys: Term 1
Spring Term 1 2020 Courses
Teaching Effectiveness Surveys (course evaluations) will be available online through Campus Portal from February 25 – March 13, 2020. Your feedback regarding courses and faculty is very important to Notre Dame de Namur University, to your faculty, and to me as the instructor for this course. Your feedback helps us review and improve their teaching, helps departments/programs review and improve program content, and is used by the university in making decisions about tenure, promotion, and hiring decisions for part-time faculty.

Directions: To access, please enable pop-ups in your browser (uncheck pop-up blocker), then in Campus Portal look for the "You have an active survey" link in the left sidebar. Click that link to open the Course Evaluation Surveys page, which has a link to a survey for each course in which you’re enrolled. Your feedback is very important! Please complete your evaluations for all your courses promptly.

Remember: Your responses are anonymous.

Course Evaluations/Teaching Effectiveness Surveys: Term 2 and Full-Semester
Spring 2020 Full-semester and Term 2 courses
Teaching Effectiveness Surveys (course evaluations) will be available online through Campus Portal from April 27 – May 15, 2020. Your feedback regarding courses and faculty is very important to Notre Dame de Namur University, to your faculty, and to me as the instructor for this course. Your feedback helps us review and improve their teaching, helps departments/programs review and improve program content, and is used by the university in making decisions about tenure, promotion, and hiring decisions for part-time faculty.

Directions: To access, please enable pop-ups in your browser (uncheck pop-up blocker), then in Campus Portal look for the "You have an active survey" link in the left sidebar. Click that link to open the Course Evaluation Surveys page, which has a link to a survey for each course in which you’re enrolled. Your feedback is very important! Please complete your evaluations for all your courses promptly.

Remember: Your responses are anonymous.
Academic Honesty

NDNU’s core values include learning, integrity, and honesty, values we live out in all areas of our learning community. Academic honesty means you are able to demonstrate your own knowledge and skills and receive feedback on your learning that can help you improve. By taking responsibility for your own work and avoiding actions that could give you an unfair advantage over others, you are contributing to the NDNU learning community and developing professional skills and values that will serve you well into the future. Academic honesty is one of the most important values of a university community, and breaches of this trust have serious consequences. Please see the Student Handbook for a detailed discussion of Academic Conduct expectations.

OFFICE HOUR: I will be available to students immediately before and after class, also by appointment. You can contact me at mrende@ndnu.edu.