

Philosophy 152: Philosophy of Social Science
Winter Term 2012

Readings are available from:

<https://sites.google.com/site/phil152w12cartwright/>

Part I. The Ethics of the Economics of Climate Change

Week 1. (Jan 9) The economy and the environment: Who matters?

➤ *Readings*

- Stern, N (2009), *A Blueprint for a Safer Planet*, chapter 5: 'Ethics, discounting and the case for action'.
- Broome, J (2007), 'Climate Change: Why Economics Requires Ethics', The Knox Lecture, University of St Andrews.
From the author.
- Dasgupta, P (2006), 'Comments on the Stern Review's Economics of Climate Change', *National Institute Economic Review*.

➤ *Background readings for more depth*

- Dietz, S and Stern, N (2007), 'Why Economic Analysis Supports Strong Action on Climate Change: a Response to the Stern Review's Critics'.
From the authors.
- Weitzman, M (2007), 'The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change', *Journal of Economic Literature*, Section 2.
<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/weitzman/files/JELSternReport.pdf>

Week 2. (Jan 18) Which values? Whose values?

➤ *Readings*

- Sen, A (1999), *Development as Freedom*, Chapter 3, 54-87.
- Sen, A (2009), *The Idea of Justice*, Part II: Forms of Reasoning, 155-225.

- **Week 3. (Jan 23) Dealing with dissent**

➤ *Readings*

- Oreskes, N & Conway, E (2010), *Merchants of Doubt*.

Part 2. Value-free Social Science: Is it Possible? Desirable?

Week 4. (Jan 30) The value-free ideal

➤ *Readings*

- Douglas, H (2009), Chapter 3: 'Origins of the Value-Free Ideal for Science', *Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal*.
- Nagel, E (1961), 'The Value-oriented Bias of Social Enquiry' from *The Structure of Science: Problems in the Logic of Scientific Explanation*, 485-502.
- Rudner, R (1953), 'The Scientist *Qua* Scientist Makes Value Judgments', *Philosophy of Science*, 20: 1-6.

Week 5. (Feb 6) Chasing out values: can it be done?

➤ *Readings*

- Sen, A (1981), 'Accounts Actions and Values: Objectivity of Social Science', in Lloyd, C (ed), *Social Theory and Political Practice, Wolfson College Lectures*, 87- 107.
- Dupre, J (2007), 'Facts and Values' in Kincaid, H, Dupré, J & Wylie, A (eds.), *Value Free Science?: Ideals and Illusion*, 27-41.

Midterm Review

Week 6. (Feb 13) Catch-up, review, exam

Part 3. Feminist perspectives

Week 7. (Feb 22) Is value-free social science all that good an idea?

➤ *Readings*

- Lloyd, E (1995), 'Objectivity and the Double Standard for Feminist Epistemologies', *Synthese* 104: 351-381.
- Wylie, A (2003), 'Why Standpoint Matters', in *Science and Other Cultures: Issues in Philosophies of Science and Technology*, Figueroa, R and Harding, S (eds.), 26-48.
- Crasnow, S (2007), 'Feminist Anthropology and Sociology: Issues for Social Science' in *Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology Volume*, Turner, S and Risjord, M (eds.), 755-789.

Part 4. Evidence-based social policy

Week 8. (Feb 27) What's EBP? What's so good about RCTs?

➤ Readings

- 'Social Programs that Work'.
http://evidencebasedprograms.org/wordpress/?page_id=9
- Cartwright, N & Hardie, J (forthcoming), *Will It Really Work for You? Doing Evidence-based Policy Better*. Chapter I.A, & Part IV.
From the authors.
- Duflo, E (2010), 'Social Experiments to Fight Poverty, Ted Talk
http://www.ted.com/talks/esther_duflo_social_experiments_to_fight_poverty.html

Week 9. (March 5) What went wrong with class-size reduction?

➤ Readings

- What Works Clearinghouse 'Procedures and Standards Handbook', concentrate on chapter 3.
- Stecher, B & Bohrnstedt, G (2002), *Class Size Reduction in California*
http://www.classize.org/techreport/year3_technicalreport.pdf
- Cartwright, N & Hardie, J (forthcoming), *Will It Really Work for You? Doing Evidence-based Policy Better*. Chapter II.A.
From the authors.

March 9 Exam

Week 10. (March 12) What went wrong in Bangladesh?

➤ *Readings*

- White, H (2009), 'Theory-based impact evaluation'.
http://www.3ieimpact.org/admin/pdfs_papers/51.pdf
- Cartwright, N & Hardie, J (forthcoming), *Will It Really Work for You. Doing Evidence-based Policy Better*. Chapter II.B.
From the authors.