

Philosophy 152: Philosophy of Social Science  
Winter Term 2015  
Nancy Cartwright

Readings are primarily from *Philosophy of Social Science: A New Introduction* (2014), N Cartwright & E Montuschi (eds), OUP. It is recommended that you buy the book.

Class website: <https://sites.google.com/site/phil152w15cartwright/>

**Week 1. 6 January. Evidence-based policy: why and how?**

- *PoSS*, Ch 3

**Week 2. 13 January. Objectivity: what is it, do we want it, and why?**

- *PoSS*, Ch 7
- Daston, Lorraine and Peter Gallison (1992), "The Image of Objectivity," *Representations* 81-128

**Week 3. 20 January. Values in social science.**

- *PoSS*, Ch 9
- Dupre, J (2007), 'Facts and Values' in Kincaid, H, Dupré, J & Wylie, A (eds.), *Value Free Science?: Ideals and Illusion*, 27-41

**Week 4.**

**Review & EXAM. 27 January**

**29 January. Case studies.**

- *PoSS*, Ch 15

**Week 5. 3 February. Measuring and categorizing.**

- *PoSS*, ch 14

**Week 6. 10 February. Causation in the social sciences.**

- *PoSS*, ch 16
- Duflo, E (2010), 'Social Experiments to Fight Poverty', Ted Talk  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/esther\\_duflo\\_social\\_experiments\\_to\\_fight\\_poverty.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/esther_duflo_social_experiments_to_fight_poverty.html)

**Week 7. 17 February Catch-up, Review & EXAM (19 February).**

**Weeks 8 & 9. 24 February & 3 March. Student presentations.**

- On a choice among *PoSS*, Parts I, II, and IV.

**Week 10. 10 March. Feminist standpoint theory.**

- *PoSS*, Ch 8

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- ✚ Attendance & participation at all classes (10%)
- ✚ 2 class discussion points (a couple sentences long) submitted in writing at the *beginning* of class each Thursday of weeks 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 10 (15%)
- ✚ 1 early in-class exam, January 27 (15%)
- ✚ 1 late in-class exam, 19 February (25%)
- ✚ 1 joint in class presentation, Weeks 8 & 9. Joint grade (17%)
- ✚ 1 final paper, March 10 (no extensions!); may be based on class presentation; 2500 – 3000 words (18%)
- ✚ 100% attendance during last week. Failure to attend classes in Week 10 will knock the overall grade down 5% for each class missed.

Nancy Cartwright, HSS 7023

Office hours: 2:15 – 3:15 Thursdays, 12:00 Fridays