

Philosophy 152: Philosophy of Social Science  
Winter Term 2018, T/Th 2:00 – 3:20  
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.

**Week 1. January 9, 11. Evidence-based policy: why and how?**

- *PoSS*, Ch 3

**Week 2. January 16, 18. 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. January 23-25. 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.**

**January 30. Feminist standpoint theory.**

- *PoSS*, Ch 8

**Feb 1. Exam**

**Week 5. February 6,8. Measuring and categorizing.**

- *PoSS*, ch 14

**Week 6. 13,15 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.**

**February 20 Catch-up, Review.**

**February 22 EXAM.**

**Weeks 8 & 9. February 27, March 1,6,8. Student presentations.**

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

**Week 10. March 13, 15. Case studies.**

- *PoSS*, Ch 15

## **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, February 1 (15%)
- # 1 late in-class exam, February 22 (25%)
- # 1 joint in class presentation, Weeks 8 & 9. Joint grade (17%)
- # 1 final paper, March 8 (no extensions!); may be based on class presentation; 2500 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: 12:30 – 1:30 Thursdays, 11:45 – 12:45 Fridays