

HPSC30028 Philosophy of Biology

Credit Points:	12.50						
Level:	3 (Undergraduate)						
Dates & Locations:	This subject is not offered in 2013. This subject is taught intensively over 2 weeks in the winter break.						
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 1 x 90 minute lecture and 1 x 60 minute tutorial each day of the two week teaching period. Teaching will commence on Monday 1st of July. Total Time Commitment: 102 hours total commitment.						
Prerequisites:	None.						
Corequisites:	None.						
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Knowledge gained in 75 points of university study (6 subjects) in any area.						
Non Allowed Subjects:	<p>Students who have completed 'Philosophy of Biology' under any of the codes 136-207, 136-307, 672-326 or HPSC30025 are not permitted to enrol in this subject.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Study Period Commencement:</th> <th>Credit Points:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HPSC30025 Philosophy of Biology (Science 3)</td> <td>Not offered 2013</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:	HPSC30025 Philosophy of Biology (Science 3)	Not offered 2013	12.50
Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:					
HPSC30025 Philosophy of Biology (Science 3)	Not offered 2013	12.50					
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/						
Contact:	Dr Stephen Fleischfresser spfl@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:spfl@unimelb.edu.au)						
Subject Overview:	Is biology a unique and autonomous science? Is biology the same kind of science as physics? Do Kuhnian revolutions occur in the biological sciences? How are the functionalist biological sciences that study physiology and cellular processes linked to and/or distinct from the historical or evolutionary biological sciences? In biology, can causes be effects and effects be causes and how on earth do you make sense of biological matter if they can? What is the role of metaphor in science? Can the intricacies of our evolved minds be decoded using nothing but calipers and a stack of old men's magazines, or is this yet another example of sexism in science? These are some of the questions considered in this subject. These issues and more are pursued through case studies which might include study of the work of Robert Brown - an early 19th century taxonomist, the theories and experiments of Nobel prizewinner Barbara McClintock, the writings of Charles Darwin and the theoretical empire-building of E.O. Wilson						
Objectives:	<p>Students who successfully complete this subject should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Develop new appreciation of biological concepts through recognising the historical and philosophical circumstances of their emergence # Develop the capacity for critical analysis of a theoretical approach to examining biological sciences as systems of knowledge and practice. 						
Assessment:	A 2000 word essay 50% (due two weeks after the teaching period) and a 2-hour exam 50% (at the end of the teaching period). Hurdle requirement: students must attend a minimum of 75% of tutorials in order to pass this subject. Regular participation in tutorials is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 10% per day; after five						

	working days, late assessment will not be marked. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	Readings will be available on-line through the subject LMS website.
Recommended Texts:	<i>What Makes Biology Unique? Considerations on the Autonomy of a Scientific Discipline</i> (Ernst Mayr), Cambridge University Press 2004
Breadth Options:	<p>This subject potentially can be taken as a breadth subject component for the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Bachelor of Biomedicine (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-BMED) # Bachelor of Commerce (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-COM) # Bachelor of Environments (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENVS) # Bachelor of Music (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-MUS) # Bachelor of Science (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-SCI) # Bachelor of Engineering (https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2013/B-ENG) <p>You should visit learn more about breadth subjects (http://breadth.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html) and read the breadth requirements for your degree, and should discuss your choice with your student adviser, before deciding on your subjects.</p>
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<p>Students who successfully complete this subject should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Develop analytic and critical reading skills # Develop skills in analytic writing
Links to further information:	http://hps.unimelb.edu.au/
Notes:	3rd year science Students (pre 8008 only) should enrol in HPSC30025 for science credit. HPSC30025 is not available as Breadth. New Gen students requiring a breath option should enrol in HPSC30028.
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>History and Philosophy of Science History and Philosophy of Science History and Philosophy of Science History and Philosophy of Science (pre-2008 Bachelor of Science) History and Philosophy of Science Major Philosophy Philosophy Major Science credit subjects* for pre-2008 BSc, BASc and combined degree science courses</p>
Related Breadth Track(s):	Science and its Margins