

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2020-21**

**Philosophy Course Number: 2300
Philosophy of Science**

Winter 2022

Instructor: Eric Desjardins

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Office Hours: TBA

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DESCRIPTION

This introduction to the philosophy of science explores how philosophical questions are linked to sciences. Over the course of the semester, we will look at examples of successes and failures in science and reflect on issues such as: What are the aims of science? What demarcates science from pseudoscience? Does science progress? Is scientific knowledge objective? Are scientific representations real? How historical and social contexts affect the work of scientists? These questions will be explored through a wide range of topics that became the center of attention in the natural and social sciences, including astronomy, geography,

students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must