

Philosophy of Science ProSeminar – Fall 2007

Elliott Sober

Readings

We will read Martin Curd and J.A. Cover's *Philosophy of Science – the Central Issues* (Norton, 1998), which will be available at University Bookstore, as well as the following articles:

Hempel, "Problems and Changes in the Empiricist Criterion of Meaning"

Carnap, "Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology"

Quine, "On Carnap's Views on Ontology"

Oppenheim and Putnam, "Unity of Science as a Working Hypothesis"

Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"

Fodor, "The Special Sciences"

Syllabus

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter of C&C	Additional reading
1	9/5	Demarcation	1	Hempel
2	9/12	Rationality, Objectivity, Values	2	
3	9/18	"	2	
4	9/26	Duhem-Quine	3	Carnap, Quine
5	10/3	"	3	
6	10/10	Induction, Prediction, Evidence	4	
7	10/17	"	4	
8	10/24	Confirmation & Bayesianism	5	
9	10/31	Explanation	6	
10	11/7	Explanation	6	
11	11/14	Laws	7	
12	11/18*	Reduction	8	Oppenheim&Putnam;Putnam;Fodor
13	11/28	"	8	
14	12/5	Realism	9	
15	12/12	"	9	