

# Philosophy of Science

PHIL 160, Section 02

Fall 2025

In-person, Tuesdays and Thursdays, BBC 226 (1:30-2:45 p.m.)

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- What is science? What are its foundations and methods? How has science changed over time?
- Why are so many people quick to trust claims that are labeled “scientifically proven” or “approved by scientists”? Where does science get its authority and influence?
- Is science truly the best way of seeking knowledge, or is Hollywood onto something with its portrayal of mad scientists?
- What role does science—and the way we think about it—play in debates over pressing issues like AI and climate change?
- And finally, putting aside political biases and personal allegiances, what can be said about statements like the ones below? What can be said about the relationship between science and politics?

“ We must reject the **perennial prophets of doom** and their predictions of the apocalypse

I don't think it's a **hoax**, I think there's probably a difference. But I don't know that it's manmade.

It's freezing in New York — **where the hell is global warming?**

“ The United States will join **one trillion trees** initiative

“ I don't believe it.

The weather has been so cold for so long that the **global warming HOAXSTERS** were forced to change the name to climate change to keep \$ flow!

The concept of global warming was **created by and for the Chinese** in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

“ The environment is very important to me. Someone wrote a book that **I'm an environmentalist**

Donald J. Trump

The badly flawed Paris Climate Agreement protects the polluters, hurts Americans, and **cost a fortune. NOT ON MY WATCH!**

“ I want the cleanest water on the planet. **I want the cleanest air anywhere** — crystal-clean water

BBC

The answers to the questions above aren't all found in the lab—we need philosophers for that too.

That's why this class explores the views of great philosophers like Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Heidegger, Popper, Kuhn, and more, who grappled with these and countless other big questions.

So, enroll in Philosophy of Science! Not only is it like a Netflix binge session with fewer explosions and more mind-blowing ideas, but it's also “scientifically proven” to make you more interesting at parties!

This 3-unit course satisfies SJSU Studies R: Earth, Environment, and Sustainability.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.