



University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Biology  
Graduate Program



Course Syllabus

BIOL 6690 - Graduate Seminar

<b>Semester:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2007/2008	<b>Credit hours:</b> 1 credit hour	<b>Contact hours:</b> 2 contact hours
<b>Course instructor:</b> Dr. Nico M. Franz Office: B-304; Lab: B-323 E-mail: <a href="mailto:franz@uprm.edu">franz@uprm.edu</a>	<b>Location, dates, and times:</b> Wednesday - 2:00 pm to 3:50 pm, Room B-390	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> Graduate students, UPRM Biology.	<b>Concurrent requisites:</b> None.	
<b>Description:</b> Discussion of recent literature in biology and related fields, particularly in the philosophy of science. Students will discuss principal topics in their special fields, focusing on recent or significant historical debates. With short presentations and writing assignments.		
<b>Descripción:</b> Discusión de literatura reciente en biología y áreas relacionadas, en particular la filosofía de la ciencia. Los estudiantes discutirán temas principales en sus campos de especialidad, con un enfoque en debates recientes o históricamente significativos. Con presentaciones cortas y asignaciones de escritura.		
<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To understand core themes, terms, and arguments in the philosophy of science, and to apply this understanding to current topics and controversies in the students' areas of expertise.</li><li>- To practice the presentation and subsequent defense of scientific arguments, and to properly assess the validity of scientific inferences rooted in observations.</li></ul>		
<b>Teaching strategies:</b> x seminar sessions          x student presentations          x writing assignments		
<b>Course materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Boyd, R. N., P. Gasper &amp; J. D. Trout. 1991. (eds.) <a href="#">The Philosophy of Science</a>. Cambridge, MIT Press.</li><li>- Lange, M. 2006. (ed.) <a href="#">Philosophy of Science: an Anthology</a>. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing.</li><li>- Sober, E. 2005. <a href="#">Core Questions in Philosophy: a Text with Readings</a>. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, Macmillan.</li><li>- Select articles and other resources made available to students via UPRM's <a href="#">WebCT</a> service.</li></ul>		
<b>Course schedule:</b> To be determined during the semester according to students' interests.		

**Grading strategies and their relative weight:**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Presentations	40%
Assignments	40%
Participation	20%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading system:**

quantifiable (letter grade)       not quantifiable

**Special needs:**

Students with special needs must identify themselves with the instructor and institution in order to receive proper accommodation in their courses and evaluations. Please contact the Servicio a Estudiantes con Impedimentos at (787) 832-4040, ext. 3250 or 3258, for additional information.

**Annex**

WebCT. Course resources will be made available through UPRM's WebCT service portal at <http://webct.uprm.edu>. Students are expected to *access the Webpage several times per week* for documents and announcements.

