

SCIE1000/1100

PHILOSOPHY ASSIGNMENT (15%)

“REFLECTIONS ON SCIENTIFIC METHOD”

Philosophy Assessment – Semester 1 2018

A 1000 word essay, reflecting on scientific method.

Due: 4th May, 11:59pm

Submission: Electronic copy via Turnitin (on Course Blackboard Site)

Alan Chalmers (*What Is This Thing Called Science?*, 1976, p. 1) presents the following common view of science. (See SCIE1000 Notes, §7.6.)

“Scientific knowledge is proven knowledge. Scientific theories are derived in some rigorous way from the facts of experience acquired by observation and experiment. Science is based on what we can see and hear and touch, etc. Personal opinion or preferences and speculative imaginings have no place in science. Science is objective. Scientific knowledge is reliable knowledge because it is objectively proven knowledge.”

1. Discuss the various problems that Popperian hypothetico-deductivists might find in such a view. That is, explain just what Popper would say in response to such a view.

And:

2. What is your own response to such a view? Do you agree with the Popperian objections or are some of Popper’s responses misguided, in your view? Explain and justify your answer.

The essay will be assessed in accordance with the Criteria and Marking Sheet used in the Week 7 philosophy tutorial (and also on Blackboard under Learning Resources).

NB:

I. In addition to simply coming to grips with the relevant issues for discussion, a major challenge will be to describe and respond to the issue with only 1000 words in which to do so. Be clear, concise and stay on topic. (You may not be able to say all you want to, and may need to carefully choose what is most important *to convey to your reader what the problems are and what, on reflection, you think of them.*)

II. Students will *not* be penalised for drawing only on the Lecture Notes. (Of course, further research may help you better *understand* key points and arguments but is not required. Some videos and articles have been provided in the learning resource area.)

III. When referencing Lecture Notes (or other material), any standard referencing convention is acceptable – e.g. “SCIE1000 Lectures Notes (2016), p. 207.”.

IV. When submitting through Turnitin, there will only be one submission accepted. Multiple submissions to check text matching, etc. are not permitted.

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Philosophy