Course organisation

Christian Wüthrich

http://www.wuthrich.net/

Introduction to the history and philosophy of science
2025-2026

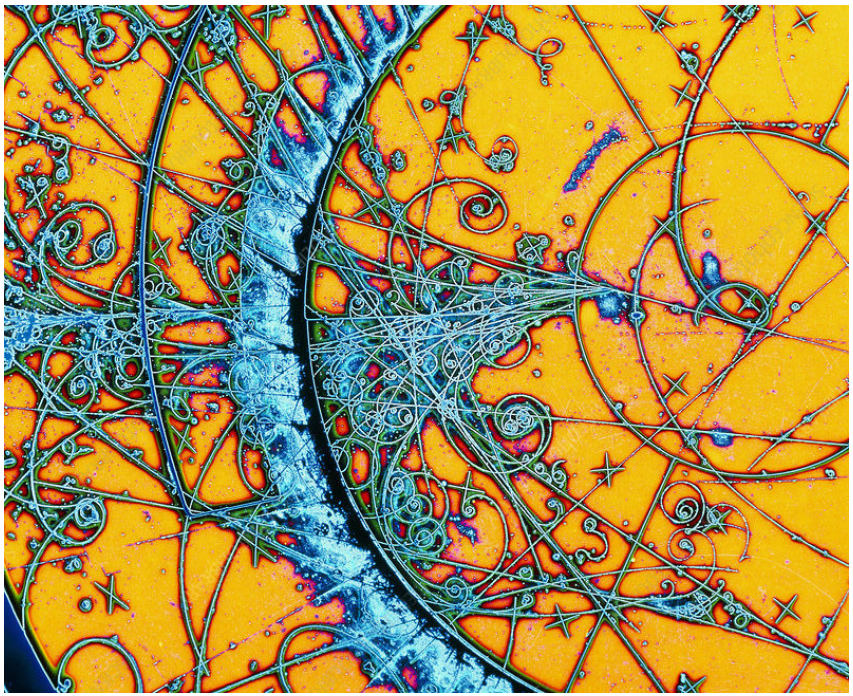
A note on the language of this course

- The course languages for this course will be English and French.
- English: my lectures, course website, primary readings, assignments/exam
- French: secondary readings (not translations!)
- If you have questions, and for your answers in the exam, you can choose between English and French.

Course website

Course website

`http://www.wuthrich.net/teaching/_Sci_HPS_2025.html`



- course description
- bibliography: main textbook, French books, link to moodle
- study guide for the exam
- course schedule with link to slides in PDF format
- practical information (contact information, etc)

Contact

Office hours: by appointment

Office 410, Landolt (2, rue de Candolle)

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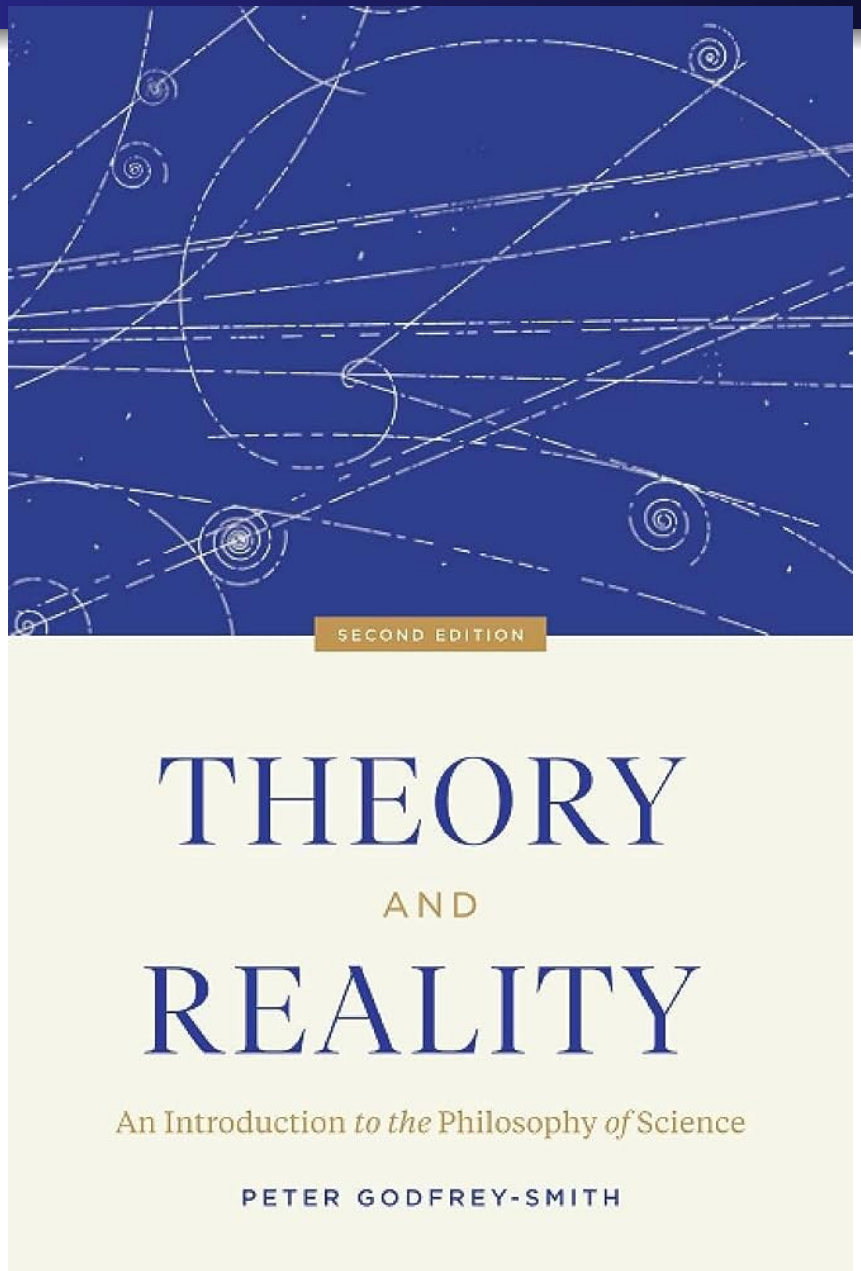
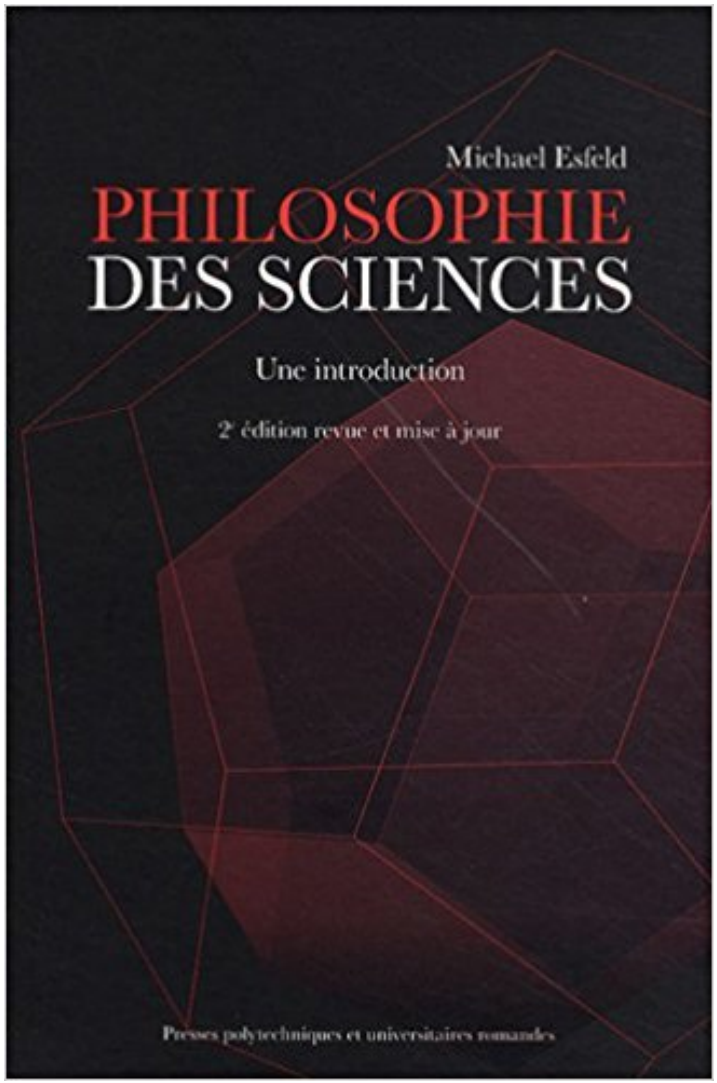
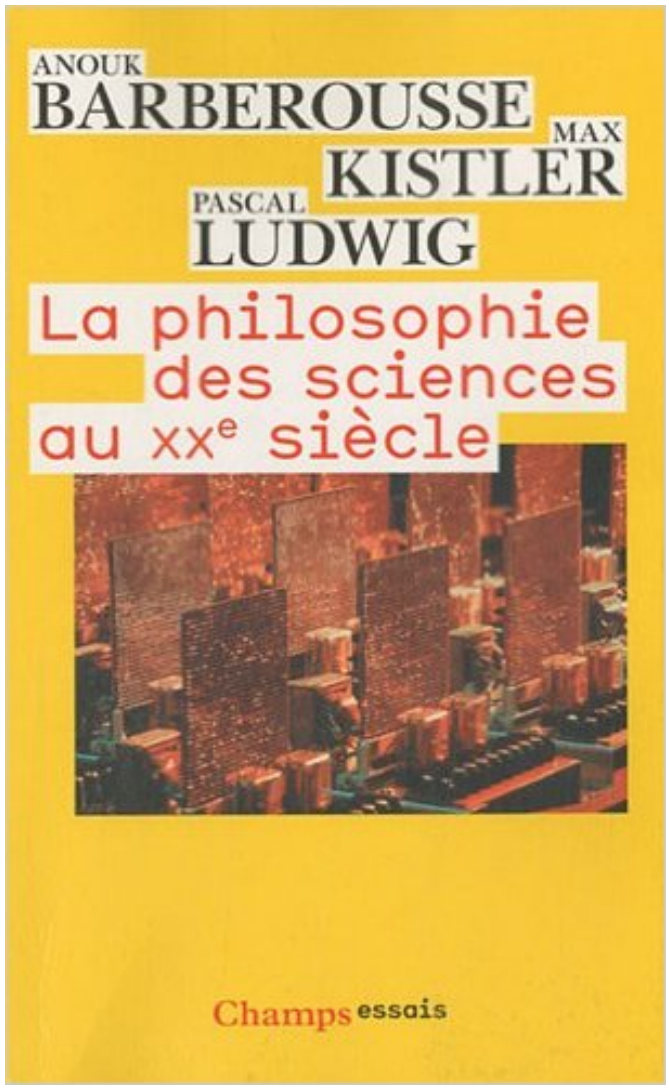
Main textbook

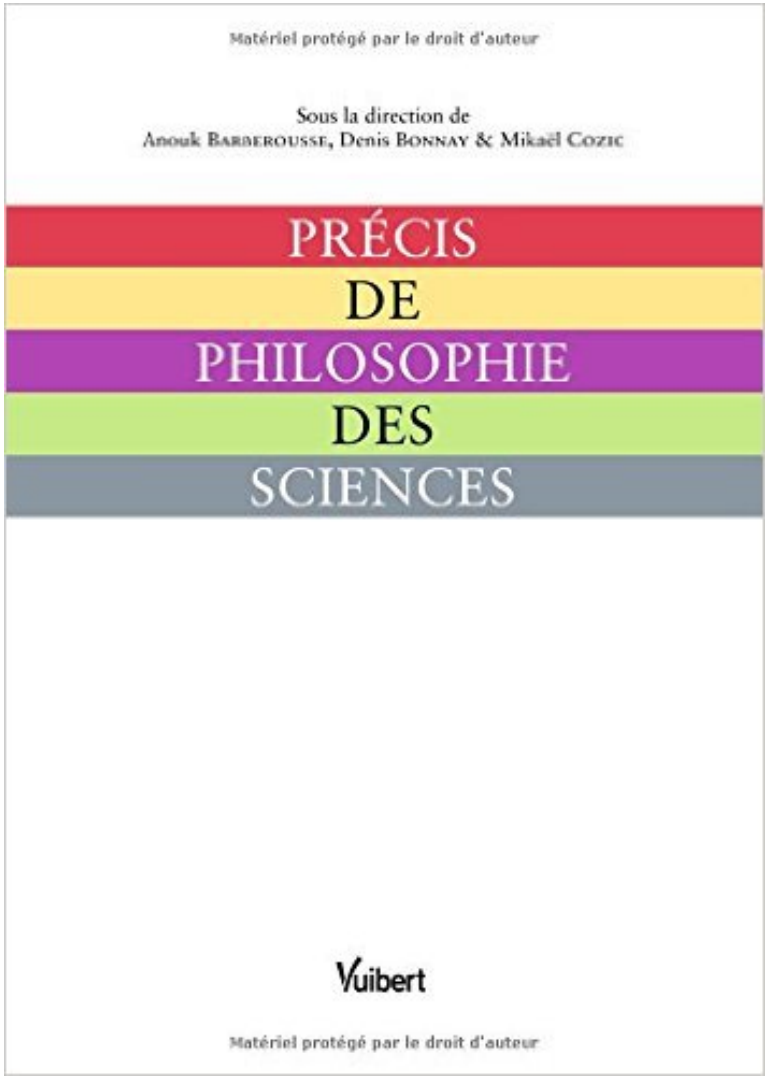


Useful books in French





Useful books in French



For other texts:

`http://moodle.unige.ch`

Useful philosophy resources

- Simon Blackburn (2016, 3rd edition). *Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

`https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html`

Course requirements

For this course, the following criteria will be applied for obtaining credit:

1. Presence and participation in the course: I expect participants to attend the course and to actively participate. Failure to do so may result in a grade deduction, or even in not passing the course at all. Please do send me a brief email if you will miss class.
2. Written exam of 2 hours: There will be a written exam of 2 hours (anonymised), at the end of each semester in order to validate the corresponding semester. The format of the exam is explained in the study guide and will be discussed in class in due course.

Credits

You can obtain 3.5 ECTS for a semester, 7 ECTS for the annual course.

FAQs

One semester or annual course?

- The course is designed such that the fall and the spring semesters are largely independent.
- Fall semester: general philosophy of science, history of the scientific revolution
- Spring semester: history and philosophy of specific natural sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, math)

What are the expectations?

- I expect students to be present and to participate, and talk to me if they have any questions.
- Having said that, there is not much reading necessary to do well (but more if you want to do very well).