PHIL 560 A: SEMINAR IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

- Autumn 2016

**Meeting Time:** M 3:30pm - 5:20pm

**Location:** SAV 408

**SLN:** 22539

**Instructor:**

Andrea Woody

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

Topic: “Explanation and Understanding”

The first half of this course will be devoted to a survey of the core literature on scientific explanation. This survey will include the original inferential (Hempel), causal (Salmon), erotetic (Van Fraassen), and unificationist (Kitcher, Friedman) approaches to explanation. We will then turn to more contemporary work, including mechanistic explanation, Streven's kairetic account, and Woodward's highly influential counterfactual/interventionist approach. We will also consider a reorientation of philosophical work concerning explanation that I have advocated under the label of a “functionalist perspective”. In the final weeks of the term we will consider recent work on the topic of scientific understanding, drawing from writings by de Regt, Dieks, Mizrahi, Khalidi, Kuorikoski, Ylikoski, and Rice, and consider the links between explanation and understanding.

**TEXT:** TBA

**Credits:** 5

**Status:** Active

**Last updated:** October 5, 2016 - 9:16pm