

Professor Peter L. Galison

Course Description:

Albert Einstein has become the icon of modern science. Following his scientific, cultural, philosophical and political trajectory, this course aims to track the changing role of physics in this century. We address Einstein and his engagement with relativity, quantum mechanics, pacifism, Nazism, nuclear weapons, philosophy and technology, and we raise basic questions about what it means to do the history of physics amidst these overlapping worlds. No science or mathematics prerequisites to take the course.

Course Format:

The course runs from February 12, 2015 to May 15, 2015.

Each new week of course content will be released on Thursdays at 5:00 PM EST.

Grading:

Multiple-Choice and Numerical-Input Quizzes: 50%

Short Essays (peer-graded): 30%

Participation: 20%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Note: Each “Week” runs from Thursday through Wednesday; all times listed are Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Week 1: February 12-18

Thursday, February 12, 5:00 PM

Lesson 1 available

Tuesday, February 17, 2:00 PM

Lesson 1 Office Hours video available

Week 2: February 19-25

Thursday, February 19, 5:00 PM

Lesson 2 available

Tuesday, February 24, 2:00 PM

Lesson 2 Office Hours video available

Week 3: February 26-March 4

Thursday, February 26, 5:00 PM

Lesson 3 available

Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 PM

Lesson 3 Office Hours video available

Week 4: March 5-11

Thursday, March 5, 5:00 PM

Lesson 4 available

Tuesday, March 10, 2:00 PM

Lesson 4 Office Hours video available

Week 5: March 12-18

Thursday, March 12, 5:00 PM

Lesson 5 available

Week 6: March 19-25

Tuesday, March 24, 2:00 PM

Lesson 5 Office Hours video available

Week 7: March 26-April 1

Thursday, March 26, 5:00 PM

Lesson 6 available

Tuesday, March 31, 2:00 PM

Lesson 6 Office Hours video available

Week 8: April 2-8

Thursday, April 2, 5:00 PM

Lesson 7 available

Tuesday, April 7, 2:00 PM

Lesson 7 Office Hours video available

Week 9: April 9-15

Thursday, April 9, 5:00 PM

Lesson 8 available

Tuesday, April 14, 2:00 PM

Lesson 8 Office Hours video available

Week 10: April 16-22

Thursday, April 16, 5:00 PM

Lesson 9 available

Tuesday, April 21, 2:00 PM

Lesson 9 Office Hours video available

Week 11: April 23-29

Thursday, April 23, 5:00 PM

Lesson 10 available

Tuesday, April 28, 2:00 PM

Lesson 10 Office Hours video available

Week 12: April 30-May 6

Thursday, April 30, 5:00 PM

Lesson 11 available

Tuesday, May 5, 2:00 PM

Lesson 11 Office Hours video available

Week 13: May 7-13

Tuesday, May 12, 2:00 PM

Capstone Project Office Hours video available