

## Philosophy of Nature

[Roosevelt University](#), Fall 2014, PHIL 331, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:45 pm

Professor Svetozar Minkov

### Questions of the Course

We will explore the meaning of nature at the beginning of science or philosophy (in Ancient Greece), at the dawn of modernity (in Bacon and in Hobbes), and at the frontier of modern science. -- We will consider whether nature can serve as an authority or a guide.

### Readings

Selections from Aristotle (Book Kappa of the Metaphysics, which includes a summary of Aristotle's Physics). Selections from Francis Bacon and Thomas Hobbes. Selections from Kant.

Other readings provided by professor.

### [Supplemental, optional:

David Bolotin, "Aristotle's Discussion of Time: an Overview" ([Ancient Philosophy](#), #17, 1997, pp. 47-62).

R. Hassing, [\[PDF\] On Aristotelian, Classical and Quantum Physics](#),

Jacob Klein, "Aristotle, An Introduction" (in [Ancients and Moderns](#), ed by Joseph Cropsey, pp. 50-69.

Jacob Klein, "The World of Physics and the 'Natural' World (in [The St. John's Review](#), Autumn 81, pp. 22-34.

Martin Heidegger, "On the Being and Conception of Physis in Aristotle's Physics B, 1" ([Man and World](#), Vol. 9, #3, August 76, pp. 219-270).

Martin Heidegger, *The Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, translation by Albert Hofstadter.

E. A. Burtt, *The Metaphysical Foundations of Modern Science*.

Jacques Monod, *Chance and Necessity*.

A. N. Whitehead, *The Concept of Nature*: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/18835>

Riezler...

Kojeve, *Modern Science and Christianity*]]

## Reading Assignments

August 26,

Optional:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-consolation-of-philos&print=true>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/04/has-physics-made-philosophy-and-religion-obsolete/256203/>

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/10/can-physics-and-philosophy-get-along/>

August 28, [Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa](#) (Book XI), part 1

(supporting documents: <http://archelogos.com/xml/toc/toc-metaxi.htm>  
<http://www.morec.com/classics/kappa.txt>)

September 2, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa , part 2

September 4, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 3

September 9, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 4

September 11, [Professor away at a conference in Boston]

September 16, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 5

September 18, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 6

September 23, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, parts 7-8

September 25, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 9

September 30, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, parts 10-11

October 2, Aristotle, Metaphysics, Book Kappa, part 12

October 7, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(Novum Organum\)](#)

Read XLV - LI

October 9, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(Advancement of Learning\)](#)

October 14, [Selections from Bacon's critique of the ancients \(De augmentis\)](#)

October 16, [Selections from Hobbes \(De corpore/On the body\)](#) -- read ch. 9

October 21, [Selections from Hobbes \(De corpore/On the body\)](#)--read ch. 10

October 24, [Selections from Hobbes \(De corpore/On the body\)](#)--read ch. 25 (sections 25.1-25.7)

October 28, [Selections from Hobbes \(De corpore/On the body\)](#)--read rest of Hobbes

October 30, [Kant on teleology \(Critique of Judgment sections 76-77\)](#)

November 4, Kant on Teleology

November 6, Kant on Teleology

November 11, Schulman on Quantum Theory and Aristotle/Lecture at Austin (to be distributed)

November 13, "The Concept of Nature" (Whitehead)--selections

November 18, Heidegger on Modern Science, Mathematics, and Metaphysics

**November 20, Heidegger on Modern Science, Mathematics, and Metaphysics**

**November 25, Thanksgiving break (no class)**

**November 27, Thanksgiving break (no class)**

**December 2, Heidegger on Modern Science, Mathematics, and Metaphysics**

**December 4, Concluding Discussion**