

# Paper 1

# Phil 145: Philosophy of Science

Prof. Christian Wüthrich

due: 29 April 2008

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## Instructions

You are asked to submit an essay of 1,000-1,400 words. You must include a word count. Your response essay must be clearly structured, precisely worded, validly argued, and diligently spell-checked. Be as concise as possible without compromising clarity. Because the essay you are asked to write is not long, I expect that you spend more thought on just how you want to organize your answer, as well as on rewriting the paper. There are some additional rules to keep in mind, as specified on the syllabus. The midterm exam is worth up to 20 points and must be submitted in class as well as to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com). For each day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from your point total, although no negative point totals will be given for the midterm papers.

## Topics

Choose one of the following topics to write about:

1. Identify a school of thought that can reasonably be considered a “fringe science,” i.e. an enterprise right in the grey area between science and pseudo-science. Identify and defend a small number (= two or three) of demarcation criteria that at least offer a close approximation to a useful distinction between science and pseudo-science. Use these criteria to determine whether your chosen school of thought is a science or a pseudo-science.
2. Defend Kitcher’s unification analysis of scientific explanation against the objection I raised in class concerning how the account deals with cases of irrelevance.
3. Pick your favorite analysis of laws of nature and defend it against the criticisms that were raised in lecture and in the readings.