

# Intensive Study Understanding Science

Philosophy 319, Spring 2026 MW 3:00–4:20 Catskill 130

**Professor:** P.D. Magnus <pmagnus -at- albany.edu>

Office: HU-218, (518) 442-4223

Office hours W 11:00–noon, F 11:00–noon, and by appointment

This is taught as a shared resources course with APHI 218 Understanding Science. That means that students in APHI 319 will attend the class meetings, take the exams, and write the assigned papers for 218. For details about those, see the syllabus for 218.

In addition, students will write an additional paper.

## Requirements and grading:

5%	response papers
5%	short papers
10%	intensive study paper
25%	first midterm exam
25%	second midterm exam
30%	final exam

**Intensive study paper:** Find a science news article published this year that connects to one of the topics or concepts we have studied in this course.

Your paper should

- explain the scientific development that is described in the article.
- explain the concept from that course which the news item connects to.
- explain how this scientific development illustrates, applies, or relates to the concept.
- be 1000–1500 words, plus references.
- conclude with a list of works cited, giving citations both for the news article and at least one course reading. (Even though it was provided as a course reading, you should give a full citation.) You are also welcome to refer to other sources. If the article describes published research, you may want to read and reference the original scientific paper.

Note that this assignment is open-ended and requires you to do some thinking on your own. You might want to begin by keeping an eye on a science news source, like Scientific American or ScienceNews.org.