

Philosophy of Science Assignments

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First, open this:  FSA3000 Assignments

Assignment 1: Science and Us

Philosophy makes you a better thinker only if you fully engage in it. Passively listening or reading limits the benefits.

I've found that the best way to engage in philosophy is through writing essays. The process of writing encourages you to sit with your thoughts. You scrutinise your thoughts, by putting them into writing, eliminating bad ideas and sharpening the good ones.

If you do this assignment well, your thoughts about science will be more subtle, deeper, and clearer.

1. Divide into groups on the Google Sheet in the FSA3000 Assignments folder above.

Choose a topic for your essay. You are free to choose any topic related to science and its impact on us.

Here are some examples. You are not limited to these:

- Buddhist Philosophy and the Chinese Scientific Worldview
- Modern Technology Changes How We View Humanity
- Artificial Intelligence: A Philosophical Reflection
- The Impacts of Linguistics on Scientific Thinking
- How Far Should We Trust Scientists?
- Why Philosophy of Science is Important for Non-Scientists
- The Role of Mythology in a Scientific Society
- The Place of Philosophy in a Scientific Society
- The Impacts of Science on Fiction
- The Influence of Science Fiction on Scientific Progress
- Values and Beliefs in Scientific Thinking

2. Write an essay about the topic you choose:

- There is **no minimum word limit**.
Don't write unnecessarily long sentences to hit any minimum number of words. Write only what is interesting to you and relevant to your topic.

- The **maximum word limit is 5000 words**.
Include only the strongest arguments and content. Discard the rest. (If you need more words to complete your essay, ask me. I'll consider it. I don't want to limit your creativity).
- **Cite your references** professionally.
I want to train you to be a credible thinker. So, in your essay, make it clear which contents are your own arguments and ideas, and which ones are something you learned from others in your research. For citation and bibliographic formatting, use APA Style (<https://www.apastyle.org/>).
- Submit your essay in the **correct format**.
 - Font: Use the contemporary Microsoft Word defaults:
 - Main text: Aptos (Body), size 12, 1.5 line spacing.
 - Headings and subheadings: Aptos Display (Headings), size 14 or larger.
 - Document format: **PDF** (so your correct formatting is preserved)
 - Label the PDF document with your [Group number] – [Title]
E.g., Group 15 – Generative AI and Our Moral Language
- Submit to the 'Essay Submission' in the FSA3000 Assignments folder above. Submit it by Week 5 **Friday, 24 Apr 2026, 2359 hrs**.
 - This is your equivalent of Test 1, so you will not have a Test 1 exam.

Assignment 2: Science in Culture

I believe that Philosophy of Science impacts our society, often without us realising it. The ways people think about science show up in popular art and cultural productions.

This assignment brings your attention to how science fiction is affecting and affected by the public philosophical understanding of science.

1. Divide into groups on the Google Sheet in the FSA3000 Assignments folder above.

Choose a cultural production that has a **strong science fiction component**. It can be anything from:

- Video games
- Movies
- TV Series
- Anime or other animations
- Comics or graphic novels
- Novels or short stories

- Theatre plays or musicals
2. Prepare a 10-minute presentation to the class. Your presentation can combine any media such as videos, pre-recorded interviews, quizzes and games.
 3. An important part of your presentation is identifying philosophical ideas or beliefs about science, which are embedded in the story, for example:
 - How do the characters in the story use science to achieve their goals?
 - Are scientific explanations being used to explain events in the plots?
 - How realistic are the scientific aspects of the story?
 - Is science presented as good or evil?
 - How are scientists being presented in the story?
 - Is natural science being presented as superior to religion or other knowledge disciplines?
 4. You will present in our class sessions. It will include:
 - 10 minutes of initial presentation by the presenters.
 - 30 minutes of reflective Q&A by Dr Irwan and the audience.
 5. Submit your presentation slides and other supporting materials to the 'Science and Culture Submission' in the FSA3000 Assignments folder above
 - Create a subfolder for your group. In it, put your slides, notes, links and all supporting materials.
 - Submit it **24 hours before** your presentation, to allow the rest of the class to prepare for the reflective Q&A. It helps us to have an engaging scientific and philosophical discussion.
 - Document format: **PDF**
 - Ensure that the hyperlinks in your document works if you want it to point to YouTube videos or other external online resources.
 - Label the PDF document with your [Group number] – [Title]
 - E.g., Group 15 – Project Hail Mary

1. The revised version of the slide deck that you use during the presentation

This concerns conceptual errors or factual mistakes within your deck.

Otherwise, send the deck PDF as it is.

2. Short reflection notes.

Short bullet points or a paragraph that you (the presenters) have learned from the discussion.

Peer contribution adjustment factor

Each of your assignment marks may be adjusted based on your level of contribution to your group.

After you submit the assignment, I will give you a peer evaluation form. Each student will **confidentially evaluate every other group member** on a scale of **0 to 5**.

The **average contribution score** given by your group members will be used to adjust your individual mark from the group mark using this adjustment:

- If your average contribution score is **4.0 to 5.0** = you get **100%** of your group mark
- **3.0 to 3.99** = **90%** of the group mark
- **2.0 to 2.99** = **80%** of the group mark
- **0.0 to 1.99** = **I will review the issue and deduct the mark accordingly**