

Understanding Science Reading List

The recommended, but completely optional, materials and suggestions for further research will be uploaded here, up to two weeks before a given salon.

Week 1

Recognizing Pseudoscience: Alchemy, Astrology, and Magic in the Ancient World

Recommended materials:

- [Karl Popper: Philosophy of Science by Brendan Shea, section 2a](#) - on pseudoscience
- [The Visions of Zosimos, the whole page](#) - on alchemy
- [That Knowledge by Astronomical Means is Attainable, and How Far, by Ptolemy, the first paragraph](#) - on astrology
- [The Fourth Ennead, Problems of the Soul II, by Plotinus, sections 40-45](#) - on magic