

# Epistemology and Philosophy of Science – Module 2: Scientific Explanations

Instructor: Andrea Oldofredi (Lancog, CFUL)

November 6, 2024

In order to schedule a meeting with me please write an email at:

**Email Address:** aoldofredi@letras.ulisboa.pt

## Handout for Tuesday November 12

### Seminar 4

- 14:00-15:20: Introduction to van Fraassen’s constructive empiricism.  
Optional Reading: Bas van Fraassen “Arguments Concerning Scientific Realism”, in Curd, M. and Cover, J.A. (eds.) *Philosophy of Science the Central Issues*, Sections 1-5 and 7 (skip section 6), pp. 1046–1084.
- Coffee Break: 15:20–15:40
- 15:40-16:30: Introduction to van Fraassen’s pragmatic theory of explanation.  
**Mandatory Reading:** Extract from Wesley C. Salmon, *Four Decades of Scientific Explanation*, Chapter 4, Section 4.4 from page 135 to page 146.
- 16:30-17:00: Summary of the module. In this last part of the lecture I will answer your questions (if any) concerning the topics we discussed in the module in order to clarify possible doubts you may have before the test.