

College of Arts – Online Course Outline Template

Course Code: PHIL *4390	Section: 01	Semester: F12
Course Title: Selected Topics in Philosophy - Emergentism		
Instructor: A. Wayne		
Brief course Synopsis: Emergentism is the view that some phenomena are different in kind, autonomous from, irreducible, unpredictable or ontologically novel relative to their underlying physical basis. Consciousness, the biological development of organisms, evolution, complex systems, chemistry and quantum mechanics have all been called emergent at one time or another. This course examines how emergence is analyzed in contemporary philosophy. Emergentism is intriguing because, while it is plausible that there are emergent phenomena, making sense of emergence proves to be tricky. Moreover, emergentism seems to challenge some of our most deeply held beliefs about the structure of the natural world and what we can know about it. Textbook(s): “Emergentism in Physics,” Michal Arciszewski and Andrew Wayne, <i>Philosophy Compass</i> 4:846-858 (2009), available at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2009.00239.x/abstract <i>Emergence: Contemporary Readings in Philosophy and Science</i> , edited by Mark Bedau and Paul Humphreys (MIT Press, 2008) Course requirements / evaluation: TBA		