

# What is Science?

(sometimes this course was called "Nature of Science", but it really should be "What is Science?")

2 credit course

July - November 2013

We studied the question, "What is science?"

We began by investigating how and why studying the question "What is science?" may be important (or unimportant). We **critically analysed** the texts listed below. Rather than just trying to understand what the authors were saying, we argued with what they said, and used the texts as inspiration for analysing what we think science is in the context of our own point-of-views and **our own work**. We also discussed what is historical dialectical materialism (marxism) and what is the relationship between it and science.

Reference texts:

(1) *What is Science* by Sundar Sarukkai (NBT, 2012)

(2) *Science in History* by JD Bernal (1965)

(3) *History of Science and Technology in Ancient India II Formation of the Fundamentals of Natural Science* by Debiprasad Chattopadhyay (1991)