

Fall 2017  
Phil 204A

### First Paper Assignment

The first paper for this seminar is due Friday, October 27. The length should be in the range of 1500 to 2000 words (e.g., 5-7 double-spaced pages). Please submit the paper electronically to [Bechtel@ucsd.edu](mailto:Bechtel@ucsd.edu).

Take one feature (or closely connected cluster of features) of complex systems as discussed by Hooker, Bishop, or Wolkenhauer and discuss the extent to which it represents a challenge to either the theory reduction or mechanistic reduction account (not both). Pick a feature that (1) you feel you understand pretty well and (2) you think has interesting implications for views of reduction.

This paper does not require you to go beyond the reading for this seminar. Write your paper to an intelligent but unformed reader—someone like yourself 4 weeks ago. Explain what you would need to explain so that your former self would understand the points you are making. Thus, try to be as clear as you can about the feature of complex systems, the account of reduction you choose, and what challenge, if any, that feature presents to the account of reduction. If you think it can be accommodate either directly or with some modification of the reduction account, say how.