

Philosophy 103: Critical Reasoning

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Office Hours: Thursday 12-2 pm
SCH 161

PHIL 103 / CRN 25438
MTWR 2-2:50 pm
Fenton 105

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the basic reasoning skills used in the context of argument. Students will learn how to identify, analyze and criticize different kinds of arguments. Students will also learn how to construct their own valid arguments. The course will begin by looking at deductive reasoning and arguments, move to inductive reasoning and arguments, and finish by considering how to apply what we have learned to contemporary problems and debates.

Required Text:

Gary Seay and Susana Nuccetelli (2008) *How to Think Logically* (Pearson)

The course text is available at the Duckstore.

Course Structure, Requirements, and Policies:

Participation:

Classes will involve sample problems and exercises. Coming to class having completed the scheduled reading and participating in class are required.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend class regularly and promptly. Some excused absences are allowed, but a pattern of absences will significantly lower your participation grade.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional unacknowledged use of someone else's work as one's own in all forms of academic endeavor (essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, and so on). Plagiarized material may be derived from books, journals, Internet postings, student or faculty papers, and so on including the purchase or "outsourcing" of written assignments. ***Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.***
See: <http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>.

Grading Standard:

A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other. B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way. C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.

D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.

F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.

Assignments:

Two in-class exams	40% (20% each)
Two take-home assignments	40% (20% each)
Participation	20%

Accommodation for a Disability:

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with us soon.

Note on Recording Sessions:

You must request permission to record any session. The recording is for personal use and cannot not be disseminated – e.g.: posted online, sent as an email attachment to others, etc.

Senate Task Force to Address Sexual Violence and Survivor Support:

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, or visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

Schedule of Readings:

The schedule of readings and (in rare cases, if need be) assignment due dates are subject to change during the quarter with advance notice via email and following the University's examination policies.

Wk. 1

M	What is Logical Thinking? (CT 1.1 - 1.2)
T	Argument Analysis (CT 1.3 - 1.4)
W	Rational Acceptability (CT 2.1 - 2.2)
R	From Belief to Statement (CT 2.3 - 2.4)

Wk. 2

M	The Virtues of Belief (CT 3.1 - 3.2)
T	Accuracy, Truth and Reasonableness (CT 3.3 - 3.4)
W	Consistency, Conservatism and Revisability (CT 3.5 - 3.6)
R	Rationality and Irrationality (CT 3.7 - 3.8)

Wk. 3

M	Reconstructing Arguments (CT 4.1 - 4.2) (Assignment 1 due)
T	Types of Reason and Argument (CT 4.3 - 4.4)
W	Missing Premises (CT 4.5 - 4.6)
R	Deductive Arguments: Validity (CT 5.1 - 5.2)

Wk. 4

M	Cogency (CT 5.3 - 5.4)
T	Inductive Arguments (CT 6.1 - 6.2)
W	Inductive Arguments cont. (CT 6.3 - 6.4)
R	Reconstructing Arguments Review

Wk. 5

M **In-Class Exam (1): Reconstructing Arguments**
T Informal Fallacies (CT 7.1 - 7.4)
W Fallacies of Presumption (CT 8.1 - 8.4)
R Fallacies of Presumption Cont. (CT 8.5 - 8.7)

Wk. 6

M Fallacies of Unclear Language (CT 9.1 - 9.3)
T Fallacies of Unclear Language cont. (CT 9.4 - 9.7)
W Fallacies of Relevance (CT 10.1 - 10.4)
R Fallacies of Relevance cont. (CT 10.5 - 10.8)

Wk. 7

M Propositional Relations (CT 11.1 - 11.2) **(Assignment 2 due)**
T Propositional Relations cont. (CT 11.3)
W Truth tables (CT 11.4 - 11.5)
R Truth tables cont. (CT 11.6 - 11.7)

Wk. 8

M Checking for Validity (CT 12.1 - 12.2)
T Formal Fallacies (CT 12.3)
W Informal Proofs of Validity (CT 12.4)
R Reductio ad Absurdum (CT 12.5)

Wk. 9

M Categorical Propositions (CT 13.1)
T Venn Diagrams (CT 13.2)
W The Square of Opposition (CT 13.3 - 13.5)
R Categorical Syllogisms (CT 14.1 - 14.2)

Wk. 10

M Testing for Validity (CT 14.4 - 14.4)
T Rules of Validity and Fallacies (CT 14.5)
W Validity Cont. (CT 14.6)
R **In-Class Exam (2): Deductive Reasoning**

