

PHIL 103: Critical Reasoning

CRN 14961
MTWR 9:00-9:50
101 ALL

Instructor: Paul Showler

305 Gerlinger Hall
Office Hours: R 10:00-11:50
E-mail: pauls@uoregon.edu

Course Description

This course will serve as an introduction to some of the basic concepts and methods involved in critical reasoning. Students will learn about the structure of arguments and acquire a set of tools for both assessing and advancing them. Some of the major themes we shall cover include the nature of *language*, *truth*, and *meaning*, different types of *reasoning* (deductive, inductive, scientific, moral), as well as the structure of *arguments*. Readings for the class shall include both sections from the textbook *Critical Reasoning* as well as primary source philosophical texts. The course will be structured around lectures, workshop sessions as well as class discussion.

Course Outcomes:

This course aims to provide students with a variety of skills including:

1. Interpretive skills (ability to determine the meaning of something).
2. Verification skills (ability to determine the truth or falsity of a statement).
3. Reasoning skills (ability to recognize and assess different forms of inference).
4. An introduction to scientific and moral reasoning.

Required Text:

- 1) William Hughes, Jonathan Lavery, Kathryn Doran, *Critical Thinking* (7th edition) (referred to as HLD below)
- 2) All other readings to be posted on Canvas.

Assignments:

[1] In-class Exams	(2 X 25%) = 50%
[2] Final Take-Home exam	25%
[3] Problem sets	(4 X 5%) = 20%
[4] Pop quizzes	5%

[1] There shall be two in-class exams for this course, consisting of multiple-choice questions, as well as both long and short answer questions. **Exam dates are noted below.**

[2] Students will be required to complete a final take-home exam consisting of both short and long essay-style questions. **The final exam should be submitted on Canvas.**

[3] Throughout the term students will be required to complete problem sets on Canvas. **The due dates for these are noted below.**

[4] There will be several very brief pop-quizzes throughout the term. When assigning your grade for this component of the class I will exclude the quiz for which you received the lowest score. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

Course Schedule

Please note that this may be subject to change.

Week 1 T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to course. • Key concepts <i>HLD</i> 1.1-1.3 (pp. 3-9). • Meaning and Language <i>HLD</i> 2.1-2.3 (pp. 19-24)
Week 2 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition <i>HLD</i> 2.1-2.10 (pp. 31-9) • Definition <i>HLD</i> 2.1-2.10 (pp. 31-9) (Continued) • Clarifying Meaning 3.1-3.2.4 (47-52) • Analytic, Contradictory, and Synthetic Statements <i>HLD</i> 3.4 & Necessary and Sufficient Conditions <i>HLD</i> 3.8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First problem set due
Week 3 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructing Arguments <i>HLD</i> 4.1-4.4.2 (pp. 67-74) • Argumentative Structure <i>HLD</i> 4.6-4.6.4 (pp. 78-81) • Workshop on Arguments • Review Session
Week 4 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM #1 (In class) • Deductive Reasoning <i>HLD</i> 9.1-9.3 (pp. 161-8) • Deductive Reasoning <i>HLD</i> 9.4-9.5 (169-73) • Inductive Reasoning <i>HLD</i> 10.1-10.3
Week 5 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inductive Reasoning <i>HLD</i> 10.4-10.5 • Strategies for Assessing Arguments 5.1-5.3.7 (pp. 91-6) • Truth theories and claims <i>HLD</i> 6.1-6.4 • Truth theories and claims <i>HLD</i> 6.6-6.8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second problem set due
Week 6 M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance 7.1-7.1.4 (pp. 127-136)

T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued Adequacy <i>HLD</i> 8.1-8.3 Adequacy <i>HLD</i> 8.5-8.6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third problem set due
Week 7 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguing back <i>HLD</i> 14.1-14.4 Irrational forms of persuasion <i>HLD</i> 15.1-15.5 Irrational forms of persuasion <i>HLD</i> 15.6-15.10 Review Session
Week 8 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EXAM # 2 (In Class) Scientific Reasoning 11.1 & 11.4 Scientific Reasoning 11.1 & 11.4 Karl Popper “Science: Conjectures and Refutations”
Week 9 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karl Popper (continued) Thomas Kuhn “Logic of Discovery or Psychology of Research?” Paul K. Feyerabend <i>Against Method</i> (Excerpts) Moral Reasoning 12.1-12.6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth Problem set due
Week 10 M T W R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moral Reasoning 12.1-12.6 Peter Singer “All Animals are Equal” Tom Regan “The Case for Animal Rights” Discussion
	EXAM # 3 Due Monday of Finals Week at Noon (On Canvas)

Course Policies

Extensions: Extensions for assignments and exams shall only be granted in the case of documented emergencies. There will be no make-ups for missed homework assignments or quizzes.

Expectations: Students are expected to participate and attend lectures. To succeed in this respect students should come to class prepared (this involves completing readings and bringing the text to class).

Grading:

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 a 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 a complete lack of effort.

A 94-100
A- 90-93.9
B+ 87-89.9
B 83-86.9
B- 80-82.9
C+ 77-79.9
C 73-76.9
C- 70-72.9
D 60-69.9
F Below 60

Pass/No Pass Grading: A grade of 'P' requires a percentage score of 70% or higher.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated. Please refer to the University of Oregon Student Conduct Code for information about what constitutes academic dishonesty.

<https://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-student-affairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code>

Assistance and Resources

Accessible Education Center (AEC): coordinates services, provides advocacy and support to students with documented physical, learning, and psychological disabilities and provides assistance to the general campus community in responding appropriately to requests for accommodations based on disability.

Location: 164 Oregon Hall
Web page: <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>
Phone: 541-346-1155. Email: uoac@uoregon.edu

Teaching & Learning Center (TLC): TLC provides numerous resources (including courses, workshops, and tutoring) to help UO students succeed. They work with a diverse student body with a wide range of needs. If you are unsure which resources would work best, they are happy to answer questions and share suggestions.

Location: 68 PLC.
Web page: <http://tlc.uoregon.edu/>
Phone: 541-346-3226.

University Counseling and Testing Center (UCTC): The UCTC provides comprehensive mental health care and testing services to the University of Oregon campus. The primary mission of the UCTC is to provide quality clinical/therapeutic services, psychological testing and assessment, psychoeducational workshops and outreach as well as emergency services.
Location: 2nd floor, University Health, Counseling, and Testing Center Building

Web site: <http://counseling.uoregon.edu/dnn/>
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 541-346-3227

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment: 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. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.