

PHIL 103: Critical Reasoning (Summer 2018)

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Course Description

Welcome to your Critical Reasoning course! This course introduces basic reasoning skills that are important not only for discussing philosophical questions but also for any field of study or situation in life where we need to argue, i.e. where we either wish to convince someone of something by giving them good reasons in favor of our belief or proposal, or where we want to dissuade somebody from something through reason or argue that they are wrong. In this course you will learn how to recognize, analyze, and criticize (evaluate) different kinds of arguments. You also will learn to construct your own arguments. We will first look at deductive reasoning, then at inductive reasoning, and then will begin to apply what we learned to current issues and debates. At the end of the course, you will be required to write a short final argumentative essay.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, you should be able to...

- Identify, reconstruct, and evaluate deductive and inductive arguments
- Identify and critique fallacies in argumentative reasoning
- Reconstruct the arguments of other philosophers and construct effective critiques
- Construct an argumentative essay
- Compare, contrast, and critique various approaches to critical reasoning from several different philosophical traditions and historical periods

Required Texts

Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills (7th edition) by William Hughes, Jonathan Lavery, and Katheryn Doran

You can purchase the textbook at the DuckStore. Any additional readings will be posted to Canvas.

Note about Online Courses

Important requirements for taking this online course: It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY for making sure you meet the requirements to take this course. In addition to the items below, you should read the FAQ for online courses here: <https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/faq>

1. You must take all of the exams for this course at a University approved secure testing center. **If you cannot make accommodations to take the exams at a University approved secure testing location, you cannot take this course. No exceptions.**

2. If you have never taken an online course at the University of Oregon, the FIRST thing you need to do is create an account through Distance Education (DE) where you will schedule your exams: <https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/wizard/index.html>
3. If you are in Eugene during this course, you will take your exams at the SSIL testing center in McKenzie Hall (map here: <https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/map>).
 - Note: you cannot schedule your exams more than two weeks in advance and you must bring your student ID. For more information about on campus testing policies, see here: https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/on_campus
4. If you are not in Eugene during the course, it is **your responsibility** to make arrangements to schedule your exams at a University approved testing center. In addition to the items below, you should read the off-campus testing policies here: https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/off_campus
 - If you are in Portland, there is a University approved testing center in the White Stag building (more info here: <https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/portland>)
 - If you are not in the Eugene or Portland area, you MUST obtain a remote proctor who is willing to administer the test through the DE website
 - The University will only verify ONE remote proctor per term for you to take all of your tests through. Please find a proctor that you can use throughout the term. This must be done before the end of the second week of the term. If no proctor can be established, the student must drop the class. If the class is dropped after the first week, the student will NOT receive a full refund. **Begin this process as soon as possible.**
 - A list of previously approved proctors is here: https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/remote_sites
 - **If none of these proctors will work for you, it is up to you to find a proctor.** Searching the websites of academic institutions near you is often an effective way to find out if someone there is willing to proctor students. [The NCTA](#) website also has a large list of proctors, **but be aware that often these remote sites have sizable fees.**
 - For more information about remote proctors, see here: https://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/information/off_campus

Grade Breakdown

20%	Exercises (10)
20%	Quizzes (10)
20%	Exam #1
20%	Exam #2
20%	Final Argumentative Paper

100%	

Course Requirements

Homework Exercises: consist of weekly practice for the week's material. Exercises will be posted online each week and should be submitted to Canvas as a word document. Exercises are due no later than Sunday of each week. Please note that the exercises need to be completed before you will be able to take the quiz. In total, 10 sets of exercises will be due. Exercises are worth 20% of your overall grade.

Quizzes: will test your comprehension of the week’s material. Quizzes can be accessed on Canvas. Quizzes are due no later than Sunday of each week. In total, 10 quizzes will be due. You cannot retake a quiz, nor will you be able to receive credit for a late quiz. Quizzes are worth 20% of your overall grade.

Exams: will be based on the material from the assigned readings, lectures, exercises, quizzes. Exams #1 and #2 are closed-book, and must be taken at a secure testing center, as outlined above. Please note that you will need to schedule your exams by the deadline, but you cannot schedule the exam more than two weeks in advance. The deadline for *Exam #1 is Monday, July 23rd* (week four) and the deadline for *Exam #2 is Monday, August 20th* (week 8). Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade. There is no final exam.

Final Argumentative Essay: will test your ability to construct your own philosophical argument in relation to the critical reasoning problems presented throughout the term. Writing a good argumentative essay takes time, and as part of this process, you will be required to submit a thesis statement, an outline, and a rough draft, which will then culminate in the final essay. The final paper is due Wednesday, September 5th at 5pm (week 11), and will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

Grading Standards for the Philosophy Department

A 94-100	A = Excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way.
A- 90-93.9	B = Good. No significant mistakes, well- written, but not distinctive in any way.
B+ 87-89.9	
B 83-86.9	C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.
B- 80-82.9	
C+ 77-79.9	D = Poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
C 73-76.9	
C- 70-72.9	F = Failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.
D 60-69.9	
F Below 60	

P/NP Grading: A grade of ‘P’ requires a percentage score of 70% or higher.

Incomplete Grades: Incompletes must be arranged for in advance in accordance with University policy: http://registrar.uoregon.edu/incomplete_policy.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to follow the rules of academic honesty. Failure to do so will result in failure of the whole course (“F”).

• *Plagiarism*: Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. By placing one's name on work submitted for credit, one certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. Verbatim statements by others must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from the regular text as indented extracts. In order to find out how to avoid plagiarism, see <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

• *Fabrication*: Fabrication is the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive. Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) citing information not taken from the source indicated; 2) listing sources in a reference not used in the academic exercise; 3) inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercises.

• *Cheating*: Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise. Examples include but are not limited to: 1) copying from another student's work; 2) collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one's work in a test situation; 3) using the course textbook or other material not authorized for use during a test; 4) using unauthorized material during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5) resubmitting substantially the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6) taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

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: uoaec@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. 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.

Accommodations for a Disability: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please inform me as soon as possible.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1 (June 25-July 1)	Introduction to the course: Reasoning and Critical Thinking	<i>Critical Theory</i> (CT): Chapter 1 (11pgs.)	Exercise 1 + Quiz 1 (due no later than July 1)
2 (July 2-July 8)	Meaning and Definition; Clarifying Meaning	CT: Chapters 2 and 3 (47pgs.)	Exercise 2 + Quiz 2 (due no later than July 8)
3 (July 9-July15)	Reconstructing and Assessing Arguments	CT: Chapters 4 and 5 (29pgs)	Exercise 3 + Quiz 3 (due no later than July 15)
4 (July 16-July22)	Assessing Truth Claims	CT: Chapter 6 (20pgs)	Exercise 4 + Quiz 4 (due no later than July 22) Exam #1 must be taken by July 23rd
5 (July 23-July 29)	Fallacies: Assessing Relevancy and Adequacy	CT: Chapters 7 and 8 (31 pgs)	Exercise 5 + Quiz 6 (due no later than July 29)
6 (July 30-Aug 5)	Deductive Reasoning	CT: Chapter 9 (17 pgs)	Exercise 6 + Quiz 6 (due no later than Aug 5)
7 (Aug 6-Aug 12)	Inductive Reasoning	CT: Chapter 10 (17 pgs)	Exercise 7 + Quiz 7 (due no later than Aug 12)
8 (Aug 13-Aug 19)	Irrational Techniques of Persuasion	CT: Chapter 15 (18pgs)	Exercise 8 + Quiz 8 (due no later than Aug 19). Exam #2 must be taken by Aug 20
9 (Aug 20-Aug 26)	Writing and Assessing Argumentative Essays	CT: Chapter 17 (18 pgs)	Exercise 9 + Quiz 9 (due no later than Aug 26)
10 (Aug 27-Sept 2)	Strategies for Organizing an Argumentative Essay	CT: Chapter 18 (15 pgs)	Exercise 10 + Quiz 10 (due no later than Sept 2)
11 (Sept 3-Sept 9)		<i>No reading</i>	Final Argumentative Paper due Wednesday,

			Sept 5 on Canvas
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