

Critical Thinking PHIL 1290
240 University College

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This course is designed to develop skills in evaluating and constructing arguments. Emphasis will be placed on the precise and effective use of language, as well as determining the relevance and strength of evidence marshalled in support of conclusions. The development of these skills is extremely useful in the construction of concise and persuasive essays, and in determining the content and cogency of arguments.

The lectures will focus on the material presented in the textbook and on extra material presented in the classroom. As a result, attendance is crucial for success in this course.

Textbook:

Vaughn, L. and MacDonald, C. (2010). The Power of Critical Thinking: Second Canadian Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Grade Breakdown:

- **Angel quizzes** (6 x 1%): 1 per week between Jan. 23rd and March 30th except on the weeks when I assign a term test. Quizzes will be announced on Mondays. Students will have until the Friday of that week to complete the quiz.
- **In class term tests** (3 x 16%): Feb 1, Feb 29, March 21.
- **Group assignments** (6 x 2%): each Wednesday between Jan. 23rd and March 30th except on the weeks when I assign a term test. The assignment will be announced on the previous Friday.
- **Final exam** (34%): during exam period (you are required by administration to be available during the exam period).

Announcements will take place in class and on Angel. **DO NOT** email me to find out the content of the announcement. I won't respond to these emails. Look it up or come to class.

Grade Conversion:

A+ = 95+
A = 85-94.9
B+ = 80-84.9
B = 70-79.9
C+ = 65-69.9
C = 60-64.9
D = 50-59.9
F = 0 -49.9

Rewrites and extensions will not normally be granted except on compassionate grounds, and only where the appropriate documentation is provided.

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and will not be treated lightly in this class. At a minimum, students will receive 0% on the assignment in question. Students should familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations regarding cheating and plagiarism in the U. of M. Calendar.