

Critical Thinking (1290 A04)

Instructor: Phil Veldhuis

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Office hours:

Winter term: Monday & Tuesday 1:00-2:00
Also available by appointment.

In this course we will work at recognising and avoiding mistakes in reasoning.
We will be covering: Informal Fallacies, Deductive Logic and related fallacies, Inductive Logic and related fallacies.

Evaluation: Final Exam: 40%
Quiz 1 (informal fallacies and term logic) = 15%
Quiz 2 (formal fallacies and predicate logic) = 15%
Prose Assignment 1 (hide the fallacy) = 15%
Prose Assignment 2 (class activity) = 15%

Bonus Grade: 5% bonus to any student who gets a letter to the editor published during the course (in a reputable newspaper or newsmagazine).

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

90-100%	A+	60-69%	C+
80-89%	A	50-59%	C
75-79%	B+	45-50%	D
70-74%	B	0-44%	F

Late Assignments accepted by prior arrangement only.

Grades are unofficial until approved by the Department of Philosophy. In exceptional circumstances grades may be adjusted to conform to expected results. Don't count on this to improve your grade. Grades in my sections have never been adjusted.

Projected Dates for Assignments and Quizzes: (Stay tuned for Exact Dates).

Prose 1: Last class in January.
Quiz 1: 2 classes after Prose 1.
Prose 2: Last class in February.
Quiz 2: 2 classes after prose 2.

Text: Essentials of Logic, 2nd Edition; Irving Copi, Cohen.

Note that any edition of Copi's Introduction to logic or Essentials of logic would satisfy your needs for this course.

In addition to the text material, we will consider some of the rhetorical skills required to complete the prose assignments. Recommended style guide: Strunk & White's The Elements of Style.

Strunk's original guide is available online at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>

The Prose 2 Assignment will likely be written work subsequent to an activity done in class. Past activities have included "survivor" style prisoner's dilemma tournaments and logical analysis of major motion pictures. Participation will be a prerequisite to submitting the written work. Suggestions for activities are keenly sought.

ATTENTION: please note the following.

This class is ultimately about intellectual integrity, something I take very seriously. Submitting someone else's work as your own undermines everything I think is important about reasoning and argumentation. Please see Section 7 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements in your Undergraduate Calendar for information concerning plagiarism and cheating. These can also be found on the Web at:

<http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/calendar06/regulations/plagiarism.asp>

If you are ever uncertain about the academic integrity of anything you are doing for this course, please talk to me. A little conversation can save a lot of pain and complication for both of us. Unfortunately, I will not accept ignorance as an excuse.

The minimum result of plagiarism will be an F in the course. The university may also suspend or terminate your enrolment. Written submissions will require a cover sheet which will include a "honesty declaration" acknowledging your commitment to academic honesty.

Grade Calculation:

Target Grade: _____ / 100

Prose 1: _____ x .15

Subtract Total Term _____

Quiz 1: _____ x .15

= Target final result _____

Quiz 2: _____ x .15

Prose 2: _____ x .15

Total Term = _____ / 60