

Critical Thinking -PHIL 1290 F-A05
Shultz Theatre, 172 St. John's College
Tues/Thurs at 11:30

Instructor: Emily Muller, Department of Philosophy
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This course is designed to develop analytical skills. Students will learn to identify and evaluate arguments. The aim is to think clearly and rationally about the strength and relevance of reasons offered in support of conclusions. We will focus on the precise use of language and logical reasoning. Critical thinking skills are powerful tools for constructing and presenting persuasive essays and for evaluating the content and cogency of others' arguments. Lectures will cover both material and examples presented in the textbook and additional material presented in class. Attendance in class is required.

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

Grade Breakdown:

- short assignments (2 x 5%)
- midterm test, take-home, worth 30%
- quizzes, in class (2 x 10%)
- Final exam (during exam period) worth 40%

NOTE: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified and will be marked down one letter grade per 24 hour period or fraction thereof that they are late.

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

NOTE: Extensions will not normally be granted except on compassionate grounds, and only where appropriate documentation is provided.

On Plagiarism: See section 8.1 of the *Undergraduate Calendar*. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in any submitted material is F on the assignment or an F in the course. For serious offenses, such as the purchase of an on-line essay, the penalty can include suspension for up to five years from registration in the Faculty of Arts.