

Phil 1290: Critical Thinking Fall 2020 “Online Learning”

Instructor: Phil Veldhuis

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Preferred method of contact is email.

Office hours: (held remotely via webex).
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) = 20%
Quiz 2 (formal fallacies and predicate logic) = 20%
Prose Assignment (hide the fallacy) = 20%

Bonus option: 5% (publication in a professionally edited newspaper or newsmagazine), other bonus options may be announced during the term.

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

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.

Projected Dates for Assignments and Quizzes: (Exact Dates TBA).

Written Assignment: Quiz 1: 2 or 3 classes after Writing assignment.
First class in October. Quiz 2: First class in November.

Late Assignments accepted by prior arrangement only. Assignments are submitted electronically via UMLearn.

Text: MacDonald/Vaughn: The Power of Critical Thinking 5th Canadian Edition.

Alternate Text: Any edition of I.M. Copi’s Introduction to logic or Essentials of logic would satisfy your needs for this course. UM Bookstore has current edition of “Essentials”.

In addition to the text material, we will consider some of the rhetorical skills required to complete the prose assignments. A good writing style guide is Strunk & White's The Elements of Style. Strunk's original guide is available online at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>

ATTENTION: 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. I cannot 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.

Textbook Topics Covered in this course:

We will follow the text sequentially as follows...

Basic Concepts: Chapter 3.

Informal fallacies: Chapter 5.

Categorical logic: Chapter 6.

Propositional Logic: Chapter 7: (& page 83-87).

Inductive reasoning: Chapter 8.

Causality and Scientific reasoning: Chapter 9 & 10.

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](#) is one important source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

Covid-19 Accommodations:

This course will comply with all instructions and recommendations from health and university authorities regarding the offering of this course at this time.

This course will be a modified version of the regular course that will use the "flipped classroom" model of instruction. That is, significant lecture material will be recorded for study outside of regular

classroom time. During scheduled lecture time we will review the assigned material and work detailed problems. Some classes will be cancelled in lieu of assigned video lectures. Students should check UMLearn course site every day a class is scheduled for updates and announcements.