

## **Philosophy 1500-0020 (22373), S15**

M/W/F 1:50-2:45, University Hall 082

### **Introduction to Critical Thinking**

In this course, we will examine deductive, inductive, and analogical arguments. You will learn to recognize these kinds of arguments, reconstruct them, and evaluate them. You will be able to recognize these argument forms from a variety of sources such as news, politics, advertisements, and literature. You will be able to provide informal reconstructions of these arguments in your own words. You will have the tools to evaluate the respective arguments as good or bad. Furthermore, you will consider some logical puzzles, which will raise philosophical issues about apparently good reasoning patterns. The overarching aim in this course will be to develop and sharpen your reasoning and argumentative skills.

### **General Education Goals and Learning Outcomes:**

Phil 1500 satisfies the *Math and Logical Analysis* element of the GE *Quantitative Reasoning* requirement.

#### Quantitative Reasoning Goals:

Students develop skills in quantitative literacy and logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, and use mathematical models.

#### Math and Logical Analysis Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students comprehend mathematical concepts and methods adequate to construct valid arguments, understand inductive and deductive reasoning, and increase their general problem solving skills.

### **Required Text:**

Critical Thinking: An Introduction to Analytical Reading and Reasoning 2e by Larry Wright

**Schedule** (Here is a rough schedule. A detailed reading list will be provided in a separate document, which is revisable!):

Weeks 1-3: Paraphrasing Arguments (Chapters 1-3)

Weeks 4-7: Analyzing Reasoning in Arguments (Chapters 4-5)

Weeks 8-14: Themes and Problems in Inductive and Deductive Arguments (6-8)

**General Requirements and Policies:**

This class is focused on the informal logical analysis of arguments, so you should have done the reading and any assigned homeworks prior to coming to class to prepare you to discuss the arguments in class. Also, you should always bring your textbook to class unless otherwise noted. Even though I will not collect homework for a grade, doing the homework is necessary to ensure your success in the class. As will be specified further below, contributing to the class will have a positive effect on your grade. Also, consistent attendance is factored into the grade, and it is important for success in the class. If you miss a class, you should come to my office hours with prepared questions or get notes from a fellow student. I do not share my lecture notes. Sometimes I will post handouts and other announcements on Carmen, but I will not update Carmen after every class.

I want to have a no electronics policy in this class, i.e. no phones, tablets, laptops, and so on. Phones should be set to silent. There are studies that show that laptops distract and diminish the performance of those that use them and others around them. In contrast, hand written notes appear to enhance learning in the sense that they lead to better retention and processing of the material (I'll post links on Carmen about this!). If you have a disability that requires the use of a laptop or have a strong opinion that the laptop is a benefit to you, please speak with me privately about this issue and we will come to some arrangement.

**Grade Components:**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm (March 2 <sup>nd</sup> take home)	30%
Final (May 5 <sup>th</sup> in class and cumulative)	40%

Attendance and participation are important to developing your critical thinking; there are studies that show that the reactions and evaluations of your peers enhance the development of critical thinking on a variety of dimensions (I'll post links on Carmen about this!). Consistent attendance is expected. Participation includes attentive listening, seriously participating in class activities, asking questions, making comments, and visiting office hours when it is helpful for you to do so. The classroom is a place to try out new ideas and help each other develop thoughts, so it would be especially good for you to answer the questions of other students or thoughtfully engage with their ideas. I expect students to be charitable and respectful to one another.

You can find the dates of the quizzes on the detailed reading list. There will be six quizzes, and the best four of these quizzes will factor into your grade. These will test skills that you will be tested on in the exams, so they are an important resource for studying. I will update Carmen if a quiz date changes. However, it is important for

you to keep up with what is going on in class if you have to miss it. If you miss a quiz, you may only retake it if you meet the conditions of the make up policy.

The midterm is take home, and the final is in class on **Tuesday, May 5**. The final is cumulative, i.e. not just the material that comes after the midterm. If you get a higher score on the final, then the higher score will replace your midterm grade.

**Make Up Policy:**

You may retake an exam or a quiz if you have written (and approved) notice of your absence beforehand, or a note from a relevant source that documents an emergency.

**Important Note:**

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus that include adding short written assignments, changing readings, and changing dates of exams. If you miss class, you should check to see what you have missed. I will sometimes post announcements on Carmen, but Carmen is not a substitute for coming to class.

**Accommodation for Disabilities:**

I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are in need of such accommodations. The information for the Office of Disability Services is as follows: (614) 292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall, [www.ods.osu.edu](http://www.ods.osu.edu).

**Academic Misconduct in contrast to Academic Integrity:**

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. Section 3335-23-04 of the Ohio State University's Student Code of Conduct defines academic misconduct as follows: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." This includes, but is not limited to, false excuses for absence (see dishonest conduct), plagiarism, copying another student, and working with another student without permission. This course requires that you are conversant with the Student Code of Conduct: <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>. If I think that I have a case of academic misconduct, I am required by the university to report it to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM finds a student guilty of academic misconduct, the student could fail the class that it occurred in, face suspension, or be dismissed from the university.

Here are some additional references on academic misconduct.

- COAM website- <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html>
- 8 rules of Academic Integrity- <http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/cardinal-rules.html>
- How not to plagiarize- <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

