UNSW Course Outline

ARTS1362 Critical Thinking for Today's World - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS1362
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course is designed to provide you with tools for thinking that are essential to any career path or course of study. In a world saturated with information, the tools of critical thinking are more valuable than ever. We take a hands-on approach to skills such as the analysis and

mapping of informal reasoning (as found, for example, in media and political discourse), the evaluation of deductive and inductive arguments, and learning how to recognise and avoid common pitfalls of reasoning. We also (gently!) introduce some formal tools for the study of reasoning, including the basics of logic and probability theory. (No maths beyond elementary algebra is required.)

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Use a variety of techniques to identify and reconstruct arguments.
CLO2 : Use a variety of techniques to assess the quality of reasoning.
CLO3 : Analyse, and assess different types of reasoning.
CLO4 : Construct logically structured and clearly expressed arguments.
CLO5 : Recognise and explain common pitfalls of everyday reasoning.
CLO6 : Seek out, identify, and synthesise information in order to defend or criticise a thesis or point of view.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Use a variety of techniques to identify and reconstruct arguments.	• Online quiz • Argument Analysis and Evaluation • Final Exam
CLO2 : Use a variety of techniques to assess the quality of reasoning.	• Online quiz • Argument Analysis and Evaluation • Final Exam
CLO3 : Analyse, and assess different types of reasoning.	• Online quiz • Argument Analysis and Evaluation • Final Exam
CLO4 : Construct logically structured and clearly expressed arguments.	• Final Exam
CLO5 : Recognise and explain common pitfalls of everyday reasoning.	• Argument Analysis and Evaluation
CLO6 : Seek out, identify, and synthesise information in order to defend or criticise a thesis or point of view.	• Argument Analysis and Evaluation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

This course will be delivered via weekly face-to-face lectures and tutorials. Lectures will be recorded for asynchronous viewing.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Online quiz Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: 01/10/2024 12:00 AM Due Date: 06/10/2024 11:59 PM
Argument Analysis and Evaluation Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	40%	Start Date: 01/10/2024 12:00 AM Due Date: 13/10/2024 11:59 PM
Final Exam Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: Formal Exam Period

Assessment Details

Online quiz

Assessment Overview

Students will take an online mid-term quiz consisting of 20 multiple choice questions.

Feedback via numerical grades.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Use a variety of techniques to identify and reconstruct arguments.
- CLO2 : Use a variety of techniques to assess the quality of reasoning.
- CLO3 : Analyse, and assess different types of reasoning.

Assessment Length

40 mins

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate

information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Argument Analysis and Evaluation

Assessment Overview

Students will be asked to use the concepts and methods developed in the course to analyse and evaluate the arguments in texts assigned by the instructor.

Length: 1,000 words

Feedback via rubric, individual comments and model answers.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Use a variety of techniques to identify and reconstruct arguments.
- CLO2 : Use a variety of techniques to assess the quality of reasoning.
- CLO3 : Analyse, and assess different types of reasoning.
- CLO5 : Recognise and explain common pitfalls of everyday reasoning.
- CLO6 : Seek out, identify, and synthesise information in order to defend or criticise a thesis or point of view.

Assessment Length

Max: 900 words

Assessment information

The use of generative software tools, such as ChatGPT and Bard, is prohibited on this assessment.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise

that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Keep in mind that LLMs are not good at the task you are asked to perform (at least not yet). LLMs are good at *summarising* text, but not at *analysing* them. A good exercise for you is to compare what ChatGPT (or other model) produces as an analysis/argument map with one of the example analyses that have been shared.

Final Exam

Assessment Overview

Students will take a final examination which will cover the entire content of the course.

Duration: 2 hours

Feedback via numerical grades.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Use a variety of techniques to identify and reconstruct arguments.
- CLO2 : Use a variety of techniques to assess the quality of reasoning.
- CLO3 : Analyse, and assess different types of reasoning.
- CLO4 : Construct logically structured and clearly expressed arguments.

Detailed Assessment Description

The exam will take place during the official UNSW exam period, and will be in person.

Assessment Length

2 hours

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Generative AI Permission Level

No Assistance

This assessment is designed for you to complete without the use of any generative AI. You are not permitted to use any generative AI tools, software or service to search for or generate information or answers.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

General Assessment Information

Detailed information for each assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

<u>Grading Basis</u>

Standard

<u>Requirements to pass course</u>

In order to pass the course students need to:

- Have a weighted average score of 50% or more across the listed assessments.
- Miss no more than 50% of their assigned tutorials.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Introducing Critical Thinking and the Analysis of Reasoning In this unit we introduce some of the central concepts in this course. Topics covered include the dual system hypothesis in psychology, truth and objectivity, and what counts as an argument. We also introduce some fundamental terms and techniques for the analysis of arguments.
	Reading	Suggested: Nisbett, Mindware, Chapter 1 (available through Moodle) Blackburn, Relatively Speaking (available through Moodle) Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapter 3 and part of Chapter 5 (pp. 79-89). Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Evaluating Arguments We continue our exploration of arguments by introducing principles for evaluating arguments. What makes an argument valid? What is the difference between a valid argument and a sound one? What makes an argument circular or question-begging? Can an argument that is not valid nonetheless provide some support for its conclusion?
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapter 5 (pp. 90-110). Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	A Deeper Look at Argument Analysis and Evaluation We consider the practice of argumentation, by discussing objections, refutations and fallacies. We discuss the metaphor of the "balance of reasons". We also spend some time looking at longer and more complex texts for analysis. Make sure you read the texts for analysis prior to attending the lecture.
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapters 13 and 17. Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Mastering Informal Argument Analysis This lecture is devoted to more hands-on practice on the analysis and evaluation of arguments. We will also consider the use of AI tools for argument analysis. How good are they at argument analysis and evaluation? Make sure you read the articles for analysis prior to attending the lecture.
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Elements of Logic We have so far focused on informal argument analysis and evaluation. This week we begin to introduce some formal tools to help with this task. In particular, we begin by introducing the fundamentals of Propositional Logic, that is, the logic of the concepts "and", "or", "if... then...", and "not".
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapter 6 (up to p. 128). Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Elements of Logic (continued) We continue our discussion of Propositional Logic and the method of truth-tables. We explain how to use truth-tables to test for validity. We pay special attention to conditionals ("if... then..." statements) and the difficulties they raise.
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapter 6. Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Reasoning with Uncertainty Uncertainty is an unavoidable part of life. In this unit we introduce basic concepts of the theory of uncertainty, namely, probability theory. Our focus is not so much on the formalism itself, but on how to reason well in the face of uncertainty, and especially how to avoid common mistakes.
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, Chapter 11 (pp. 239-251 only). Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Reasoning with Uncertainty, part 2 We continue our discussion of probabilistic reasoning. We will consider conditional probabilities, and the notorious "conjunction fallacy" of probabilistic reasoning. We will also discuss correlations, and the difference between correlation and causation.
	Reading	Suggested: Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, the rest of

		chapter 11. Available at UNSW bookstore/library.
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Reasoning with Uncertainty, part 3 We look deeper into probabilistic reasoning, leading up to Bayes' Rule --- a rule that, according to many, is the cornerstone of all rationality. We also bring everything together to wrap up the course.

Attendance Requirements

Tutorials provide the opportunity for hands-on practice in the concepts and techniques introduced in the lecture, which is essential to meeting the learning outcomes of the course (outcomes 1, 2, and 4). Tutorial attendance will be recorded each week by your tutor. Missing more than four tutorials during the term without justification will result in failing the course.

- Align with the course learning outcomes;
- Result in a recorded artefact (an artefact for participation may include a post, or response, to an online discussion forum, poll or quiz, when an artefact for mandatory attendance may include a record of attendance) and have processes in place for recording the student artefact;
- Where relevant, include evidence that the attendance or participation is required to meet a statutory or professional body requirement; and
- Be comparable where the activity is delivered in different modes.

- Other Considerations:

- Align with the course learning outcomes;
- Result in a recorded artefact (an artefact for participation may include a post, or response, to an online discussion forum, poll or quiz, when an artefact for mandatory attendance may include a record of attendance) and have processes in place for recording the student artefact;
- Where relevant, include evidence that the attendance or participation is required to meet a statutory or professional body requirement; and
- Be comparable where the activity is delivered in different modes.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required resources for this course will be made available online, via Moodle. Where needed, key information will be summarised and posted in the form of notes. Slides of weekly lectures will be available, as well as answers and feedback to the weekly quizzes.

Recommended Resources

The following book is recommended, and is available from the UNSW bookshop and library:

- Walter Sinott-Armstrong and Robert Fogelin, Understanding Arguments, 9th edition (Cengage Publishing)

This is a textbook on critical thinking, which covers much the same material as this course. It is written in easy and accessible language, and may help you follow the course. Relevant bits will be identified throughout the course. However, the course has been designed so as to allow you to follow without a textbook.

Course Evaluation and Development

This course will be evaluated using UNSW's myExperience system. Informal feedback, in the form of suggestions or comments are very welcome from all of you at any time during or after the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Markos Valaris		Morven Brown 339		By appointment	Yes	Yes
Tutor	Elka Sadler					No	No
	Victor Jauregui					No	No
	Aidan Nathan					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your

needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, Room 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm