

# Critical Thinking

## PHIL 145 (Section 001) COURSE OUTLINE

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy \* Spring 2017

---

**Course Info:** Web: Learn | 1:00-2:20pm Tu/Th, RCH 112 | Office hours: Tu/Th 10:00-11:00am

**Instructor Info:** Andrew D.H. Stumpf | Office: STJ 1, 1026 | Email: adhstump@uwaterloo.ca |

(Note: my office address will be changing around May 15<sup>th</sup> – I will update you via Learn)

**Teaching Assistant:** Angella Yamamoto | Office: HH 361 | Email: ayamamoto@uwaterloo.ca |

### 1. Course Description

From the undergraduate calendar:

“An analysis of basic types of reasoning, structure of arguments, critical assessment of information, common fallacies, problems of clarity and meaning.”

We will be trying to figure out what it means to reason and think well, as well as what reasoning and thinking poorly involves, and how to apply our understanding of these things to various contexts we encounter in our everyday lives.

The course proceeds primarily by way of lecture and in class discussion. We will aim to leave some time to take up practice questions from the text.

### 2. Course Goals:

- a. To become familiar with basic terminology / concepts relevant to rational argumentation.
- b. To understand the strengths and weaknesses of your own reasoning, and those of others.
- c. To develop practical reasoning skills valuable to academic, professional & personal contexts.

### 3. Required Text

Govier, Trudy. *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage Learning, 2014. Available in UW Bookstore; check used book store in SLC. Enhanced 7<sup>th</sup> edition also acceptable.

Note that iClickers are mandatory for this course. You can pick one up at the UW Bookstore.

### 4. Course Requirements & Evaluation

	Topic	Due Date	Weighting
Participation	iClicker polls	Throughout term	15%
Five Online Quizzes*	Various Topics (TBA)	See below	50% (5 x 10%)
Assignment	Inductive Arguments in Science	July 13 <sup>th</sup>	35%

\* Quizzes will be taken online through the course's Learn site. Each of the five quizzes will be timed (1 hour long), and will be available for a 24 hour period of time.

## Detailed Breakdown of Course Requirements

### 1. Participation (15%)

#### *iClicker Polls*

Beginning May 4<sup>th</sup>, each lecture will include a number of iClicker polls. To get full marks for the iClicker polls, you must attend at least 75% of classes and respond to at least 75% of the polls in each class you attend.

Please visit the course's Learn site as soon as possible to register your iClicker (course materials > content > syllabus > iClicker registration).

Note well: Impersonation (using your absent friend or classmate's iClicker to record their answers for them) can result in a suspension penalty.

### 2. Five Online Quizzes (50%)

Each of the quizzes will cover material from lectures and assigned readings from the Govier textbook relevant to the topic being tested (see below).

Quiz	Topic	Date
Quiz #1	Standardizing and Diagramming Arguments	May 18, 10:00pm – May 19, 11:54pm
Quiz #2	Language-Related Issues	June 1, 10:00pm – June 2, 11:54pm
Quiz #3	Acceptability and Relevance	June 13, 10:00pm – June 14, 11:54pm
Quiz #4	Deductive Reasoning	June 21, 10:00pm – June 22, 11:54pm
Quiz #5	Analogies and Conductive Arguments	July 24, 10:00pm – July 25, 11:54pm

Each quiz will be given online as a LEARN quiz, and will consist of a combination of true/false, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. Each quiz will be timed (you will have one hour to write it, starting when you open the quiz), and it will be available for approximately 26 hours.

### 3. Assignment (35%)

The assignment will build on and extend the skills tested throughout the course, up to and including Week 9 (see schedule below). You will be required to read through an article reporting scientific findings to the public, and to identify, standardize and diagram the argument being made. You will then have to critically evaluate the argument using concepts drawn from Weeks 4 through 10 of the course textbook.

*Due in class in hard-copy format.*

## Late Penalties

Assignments submitted late will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late. Quizzes must be written within the date / time range noted above. See section 6 below for the University's policy on legitimate reasons for accommodations on assignments and tests. Missed assignments or quizzes (where no communication was made up to the due date) cannot be made up.

## Citation Style

Use MLA format for all citations: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## 5. Class Schedule (subject to minor changes depending on how the term progresses):

Week	Topic(s)	Readings (From Govier)
(1) May 2,4	<b>Intro to Critical Thinking: What is an Argument?</b>	Preface, Chapter 1
(2) May 9,11	<b>Pinning Down Argument Structure</b>	Chapter 2
(3) May 16,18	<b>Looking at Language</b> <i>Online Quiz #1 (May 18 10:00pm – May 19, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 3
(4) May 25	<b>Good Arguments: An Introduction</b> <i>Note: No class on May 23, follow Monday schedule</i>	Chapter 4
(5) May 30, June 1	<b>Premises: What to Accept and Why</b> <i>Online Quiz #2 (June 1 10:00pm – June 2, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 5
(6) June 6,8	<b>Working on Relevance</b>	Chapter 6
(7) June 13,15	<b>Categorical Logic</b> <i>Online Quiz #3 (June 13 10:00pm – June 14, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 7
(8) June 20,22	<b>Propositional Logic</b> *** No class June 22 *** <i>Online Quiz #4 (June 21 10:00pm – June 22, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 8
(8) June 27,29	<b>Inductive Reasoning</b>	Chapter 9
(9) July 4,6	<b>Causal Inductive Arguments</b>	Chapter 10
(10) July 11,13	<b>Analogies: Reasoning from Case to Case</b> <i>Assignment due in class, July 13<sup>th</sup></i>	Chapter 11
(11) July 18,20	<b>Conducive Arguments</b>	Chapter 12
(12) July 25	*** No class June 25 *** <i>Online Quiz #5 (July 24 10:00pm – July 25, 11:54pm)</i>	None

\* You are expected to do the relevant readings before each class, so you can be ready to participate in class.

## 6. UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations

([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).

- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

## 7. Academic Integrity:

- **Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.
- **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline: [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm).
- **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.
- **Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.
- **Academic Integrity website (Arts):**  
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)
- **Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

## 8. Note for students with disabilities:

The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

## 9. Mental Health Services

[Mental Health Services](#) aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds.

Students suffering from problems with anxiety, depression, problems with sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within two days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential.

### **Contact Health Services**

[Health Services Building](#)

Call [519-888-4096](tel:519-888-4096) to schedule an appointment

Call [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

### **Contact Counselling Services**

[Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401](#)

Call [519-888-4567](tel:519-888-4567) x 32655 to schedule an appointment

[counserv@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counserv@uwaterloo.ca)

## 9. The Writing and Communication Centre

The Writing and Communication Centre works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and Communication Specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-and-communication-centre). Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

**Please note** that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.