

**Carleton University
Department of Philosophy**

**COURSE OUTLINE
PHIL 2003A Summer 2014**

Critical Thinking
(CRN 20983)

Lecture Location: UC 282
Lecture Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05 – 8:55 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Diane Huberman Arnold
E-Mail: huberman.arnold@gmail.com
Office: UC 282
Office Hours: Thursday, 5 to 6 p.m.

Course Description:

Others will try to convince you, sell to you, and control your behavior, all your life. This course, with assessment of reasoning and the development of cogent patterns of thinking, believing and action, will help you properly to decide for yourselves.

There will be some formal logic involved. There will be practice in criticizing examples of reasoning and in formulating reasoning clearly and correctly.

Topics will include the nature of critical thinking, inductive and deductive reasoning, rational arguments, analogous reasoning, validity, fallacies, and decision-making.

Learning Objectives:

As a course in Philosophy, one of the objectives is to give you the knowledge to improve your critical thinking skills.

A second objective is to give you the practical reasoning skills, to increase your sensitivity to strong reasoning, and to spot faulty arguments.

The third objective is to deal with the currency and relevance of critical thinking skills as they impact on life and work.

Text Book:

The Power of Critical Thinking, 3rd Canadian Edition, by L. Vaughn and C. MacDonald. Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-19-544753-8 (in Carleton Bookstore)

Class handouts, and documents posted on CULearn

Grading and Evaluation:

- (a) There are two tests scheduled during class time, during the term. Each test is worth 20% of your grade. (Total = 40%)

A make-up test may be possible, with written documentation of illness. Such a make-up test will be given at a set time schedule (so one opportunity only) and may cover other material, and will be more difficult than the original.

- (b) There will be a final exam, worth 50% of your grade, during the exam period - date, time and place to be determined by Exam Scheduling.

- (c) There will be five pop quizzes, in class, during the term, worth 2% each. There are NO make-ups possible. If you do not attend class and do not take the pop quiz at that time, you get a zero for that quiz. (Total = 10%)

Total: Exam, tests, and quizzes = 100 %

Course Requirements:

The topics will be taken up in class, as the following schedule indicates. Class lectures and discussions will do much more than cover the relevant section of the text book. You are responsible for all class material, all practice exercises assigned, and all class discussions.

***Class attendance is required.** Class attendance is the best predictor for getting through a course, and for doing well in a course.

Course Schedule:

| Session | Text Topic | Text Readings |
|------------|---|---|
| 1 May 6 | Introduction, the power of Critical Thinking | Class outline, text introduction and Chap. 1, pp. xii-xx and 2 - 35 |
| 2 May 8 | The Nature and Value of Critical Thinking | Chap. 2, pp. 36 - 67 |
| 3 May 13 | Clarifying Arguments | Chap. 3, pp. 68 - 128 |
| 4 May 15 | Reasons | Chap. 4, pp. 130 - 179 |
| 5 May 20 | TEST ONE | |
| 6 May 22 | Faulty Reasoning | Chap. 5, pp. 180 - 219 |
| 7 May 27 | Deductive Reasoning and Categorical Logic | Chap. 6, pp. 222 - 254 |
| 8 May 29 | Propositional Logic | Chap. 7, pp. 255 - 291 |
| 9 June 3 | TEST TWO | |
| 10 June 5 | Inductive Reasoning | Chap. 8, pp. 292 - 357 |
| 11 June 10 | Inference to the Best Explanation | Chap. 9, pp. 360 – 407 |
| 12 June 12 | Judging Scientific Theories | Chap. 10, pp. 408 - 452 |
| 13 June 17 | Applications to Health, Law and Ethics; Summary | Chap. 11, pp. 453 – 479 and entire book |

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 2014)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Important Dates:

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|------------|---|
| May 5 | Classes start. |
| May 12 | Last day for registration and course changes for early summer courses. |
| May 16 | Last day for registration and course changes for full summer courses. |
| May 19 | Statutory holiday, university closed. |
| May 23 | Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early and full summer courses. |
| June 10 | Last day for tests or examinations in early Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period. |
| June 17 | Last day for early summer classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for courses that end on this day. |
| June 17 | Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses. |
| June 20-26 | Final examinations. |
| July 1 | Statutory holiday, university closed. |
| July 3 | Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume. |
| July 10 | Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses. |
| July 23 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from late summer courses. |
| Aug. 4 | Statutory holiday, university closed |
| Aug. 7 | Last day for tests or examinations in the late Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period. |
| Aug. 15 | Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for late and full summer term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for courses that end on this day. |
| Aug. 15 | Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses. |
| Aug. 18-23 | Final examinations. |

Addresses:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Department of Philosophy: | 3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110 |
| Registrar's Office: | 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500 |
| Student Academic Success Centre: | 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850 |
| Paul Menton Centre: | 500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608 |
| Writing Tutorial Service: | 4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632 |
| MacOdrum Library | http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735 |