

PHIL 2003-B: Critical Thinking
January 5th, 2014 – April 8th, 2014
Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.

Class

Location: Southam Hall THB
Time: Wednesday, 4:05pm–5:25pm
Friday, 4:05pm–5:25pm

Office Hours

Location: 329B Paterson Hall
Time: Friday, 2:00pm–3:00pm
Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

Course Description

In this course, we will study the basic skills that relate to reasoning and critical thinking. We will consider, among other things, the following elements: how to recognize arguments, how to analyze arguments, how to evaluate arguments, and how to recognize fallacies. In addition, we will investigate the larger social and political questions regarding the capacity to reason.

Course Requirements:

First Test: February 4th (25%)

Second Test: March 20th (30%)

Final Exam: To Be Announced (45%)

Policies and Procedures:

1. Professionalism: I require that students adopt a professional attitude towards class conduct. Please be on time and wait to leave until class is over. Please do not engage in discussions that are unrelated to class material. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off and calls should be taken after class is over excepting cases of extreme emergency: imminent mortality (birth or death) or imprisonment. Most importantly, I also expect that class discussions are conducted at a respectful and professional level.
2. If you miss an exam, you must contact the professor within 48 hours. This is your responsibility. If you are excused from an exam (for medical reasons, etc. as determined by the professor) you must make up the exam at the following times: For Test 1, the make up date is February 11th, 1:00pm–2:20pm; Test 2: March 27th, 2:00pm–3:20pm. The location is 329B Paterson Hall. **There are no exceptions.**
3. Email to the professor should indicate the name, student number, and course. The subject line should read PHIL 2003B.

Required Readings:

The following books are available from *All Books*, 327 Rideau Street. Its business hours are 11am-9pm except Sunday when it opens at noon.

- Ronald Munson and Andrew Black, *The Elements of Reasoning*. Sixth Edition (Boston: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2012). ISBN: 049580918.

The following required texts are available via ARES Library Reserves:

- Plato, *The Republic*. Trans. G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D.C. Reeve (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1992), 95–121.
- Peter Singer, “All Animals Are Equal,” in *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*. Ed. Tom Regan and Peter Singer (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1976), 148–162.
- George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language,” in *The Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters of George Orwell*. Volume 4. Ed. Sonia Orwell and Ian Angus (London: Secker and Warburg, 1968), 127–140.
- David Foster Wallace, “Tense Present: Democracy, English, and the Wars over Usage,” in *Harper’s Magazine* (April 2001): 39–58.
- Sam Harris, *The End of Faith* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004), 50–79.
- Dan Hind, *The Threat to Reason* (London: Verso, 2007), 79–98.

COURSE CALENDAR (Subject to change)

Readings are in Munson & Black unless noted

January 7, 9	Introduction, Recognizing Arguments	Chapter 1
January 14, 16	Analyzing Arguments	Chapter 2
January 21, 23	Deductive and Non-Deductive Arguments	Chapter 3
January 28, 30	Non-Deductive Arguments, Review	Chapter 3
February 4	Test 1 (25%)	
February 6	Valid Argument Forms	Chapter 4
February 11, 13	Valid Argument Forms	Chapter 4
February 16–20	Study Break	
February 25, 27	Argument by Analogy and Models	Chapter 7
March 4, 6	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> Peter Singer, “All Animals Are Equal”	
March 11, 13	Fallacies	Chapter 8
March 18	Review	
March 20	Test 2 (30%)	
March 25, 27	Orwell, “Politics and the English Language” Wallace, “Tense Present”	
April 1, 3	Harris, <i>The End of Faith</i> Hind, <i>The Threat to Reason</i>	
April 8	Review	

Final Exam (45%): To be scheduled during the period from April 11–23. Exams are scheduled during the day and evening, on weekdays and on weekends. Please do not schedule vacations during this period, for travel does not constitute a reason to defer the final exam.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

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:
 - 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations 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 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 your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter 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 Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

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
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735