

PHIL 2003 B Critical Thinking
Summer Term, 2020

Online

Professor: Iva Apostolova

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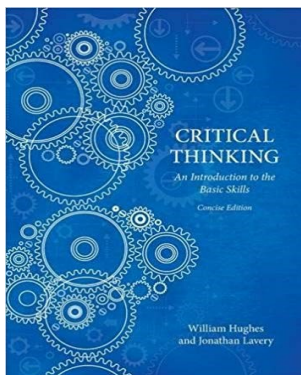
PHIL 2003 [0.5 credit]
Critical Thinking

Assessment of reasoning and the development of cogent patterns of thinking. Reference to formal logic is minimal. Practice in criticizing examples of reasoning and in formulating one's own reasons correctly and clearly. Open to first-year students.

Lectures three hours a week.

Since this is an asynchronous online course, all the lectures will be pre-taped and posted on cuLearn using The Big Blue Button. The professor will hold real-time “practice sessions”/office hours every **Wednesday from 11 to 1 pm.** for the duration of the course.

Required Course Materials: *Critical Thinking - Concise Edition*. William Hughes, Jonathan Lavery, Broadview Press, 2015. The e-book can be purchased at the university bookstore. Please follow the link <https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> or contact the book store for more information.



It is only natural for us, humans, to think. How we live our lives depend to a great extent on how we think. Much of our thinking, however, left to itself lacks accuracy, impartiality and clarity. In order to improve the quality of our lives, we have to improve our thinking by analysing its structures and forms, and taking charge of the intellectual problems we constantly come across. This course is an introduction to the concepts and tools used in critical thinking. We will learn what the elements of thought are, how to use the information we receive from the external world, how to identify the fallacies and inaccurate inferences or assumptions. No previous familiarity with philosophy or logic is presumed.

Topics include:

- Nature of critical thinking and reasoning
- Structure of arguments; schematizing and evaluating arguments
- Validity, strength, soundness and truth
- Language and definitions
- Ambiguity and vagueness
- Logical fallacies
- Deductive reasoning; formal logical fallacies
- Inductive reasoning

Course Evaluation:

Term Test 1 (online), July 17, 2020	20%
Term Test 2, July 31, 2020	20%
Term Test 3, August 7, 2020	20%
Final Exam, TBA	40%

All the tests are based upon the material covered in class. The tests combine multiple choice questions, standardize the arguments questions, True or False questions, analysing definitions and explanations questions. The final exam covers selected topics from the whole course material.

Note: There are no mock or make-up tests scheduled for this course. Make-up tests will be provided to students on a case-by-case basis, only upon presentation of a verifiable doctor's note or other official documentation. Otherwise a zero will be assigned for each missing test result.

All tests and exams will be marked by the professor, so for appeals and contestation, please contact your professor.

Although the standard time for returning marked tests/exams is two weeks from the date of the test/exam, the professor will make every effort to grade the tests within a week from the date they were taken on.

The tests and exams will not be weighed any differently than the percentage that has been originally assigned to them.

The syllabus is subject to revision and changes according to time constraints and in-class progress.

Be advised that any announcements or postings on cuLearn become official and it is responsibility of the student to check the web-site regularly.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 20)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this summer.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Examinations:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

Important Dates:

May 4	Classes start.	July 1	Statutory holiday, University closed.
May 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.	July 2	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
May 15	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.	July 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
May 18	Statutory holiday, University closed.	July 17	Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
May 22	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	Aug. 3	Civic holiday, University closed
June 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period.	Aug. 7	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period.
June 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.	Aug. 14	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline.
June 19-25	Final examinations.		Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses.
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 17-23	Final examinations.
		Aug. 23	Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Useful Contacts:

Department of Philosophy:	www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Centre for Student Academic Support:	https://carleton.ca/csas/ 520-3822
Student Support Services :	https://carleton.ca/academics/support/