

PHIL 2003 B Critical Thinking
Winter Term, 2012

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30 – 10.00 a.m.
Southam Hall, KM-TH

Professor: Iva Apostolova
Office: Paterson Hall, 329 B
Contact info: iapostol@connect.carleton.ca, ext. 6307
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2 p.m.

Teaching Assistants: TBA
Teaching Assistant's contact info: TBA

Required Course Materials: *Essentials of Critical Thinking* (CUSTOM), a custom made e-book.
The barcode is available for purchase at the University bookstore.

Course Evaluation:

Term Test 1, February 2, 2012	20%
Term Test 2, February 28, 2012	20%
Term Test 3, March 22, 2012	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 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 only upon presentation of a verifiable doctor's note or other official documentation. Otherwise a zero will be assigned for each missing test result.

The Teaching Assistants are responsible for marking all the tests and exams. If a disagreement over a mark occurs, the student needs to see the marker (Teaching Assistant) first and discuss the mark/test/exam. If the disagreement persists, the student can appeal the mark to the professor. However, the professor reserves the right to raise or lower the mark despite the mark that has already been assigned.

The standard time for returning marked tests/exams is two weeks from the date of the test/exam. However, in some cases, it may require more time. Announcements of any changes will be made in class or posted on the web-site of the course.

Neither the Teaching Assistants, nor the professor will weigh any of the tests/exams any differently than what has been originally assigned to them.

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. 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.

If you would prefer to read the material before the class, be advised that we will follow the order of the chapters as they appear in the book.

The syllabus is subject to revision and changes according to time constraints and in-class progress. Be advised that any announcements or postings on WebCT become official and it is responsibility of the student to check the web-site regularly.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

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/acadre/suniv14.html#14.3>)

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 me 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/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention

Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 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 www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735