

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Winter 2011, PHIL*2100, Critical Thinking

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 11:00-12:00

Course Description:

This course will introduce the students to the basic principles of logic and will apply these principles to arguments that are commonly encountered in everyday conversation, in academic and legal texts, and in the media. To that end, the class will take a participatory approach that will combine lectures with and in-class discussions. Thus, reading will be an indispensable part of the course content and students are expected to come to class prepared to engage with the material.

Course Objectives

The aim of the course is to enable the students:

- To distinguish between arguments and explanations, and between good and bad arguments.
- To develop a set of skills in reasoning and critical thinking that would improve their critical abilities in reading and writing.
- To be able to use these skill to analyze and assess everyday conversations, news paper articles, political speeches and so on.

Required Text:

Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*, Wadsworth, Thompson Learning, 2001
7th edition. **Students are responsible for both the textbook and lecture material.**

Evaluation:

There will be **three tests** and a **final exam**. The tests will be worth 20% each, the final exam will be worth 35% and there will be 5% **participation** mark. Exam questions will closely resemble the textbook exercises. Some exercises and readings will be done in your tutorial sessions. These are the basis for the participation mark that the TA leading the tutorial will assign.

Other Rules:

- If you cannot make the regular office hour, please let me know of your availability and I will meet you at a time of your choosing.
- Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without prior consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced or transmitted to others without the express written consent of the instructor.
- Make up exams will be given **only** after an official certification either from a doctor or your program counselor is provided. (See the Addendum to Course Outline at the end of syllabus).
- This outline is subject to change with sufficient notice.

-My e.mail is to be used for making appointments and not for other inquiries (it is not to be used to ask what is the reading for next class, when is the midterm, when is an assignment due, etc. **Such emails will go unanswered**).

- **Cell Phones should be turned off (no texting in class).**

-**The use of laptop is prohibited in the class.**

Schedule of the Class:

Week I:

Mon., Jan 10: Intro to the course

Wed., Jan. 12: Identifying arguments

Week II:

Mon., Jan. 17: Arguments vs. explanation

Wed., Jan. 19: Standardizing arguments

Week III:

Mon., Jan. 24: Scope of an argument and Degree of commitment

Wed., Jan. 26: Missing premise & principle of charity.

Week IV:

Mon., Jan. 31: **First Test**

Wed., Feb. 2: Looking at Language

Week V:

Mon., Oct. 7: More on Language (Definition)

Wed., Oct. 9: ARG conditions

Week VI:

Mon., Feb. 14: Evaluating arguments

Wed., Feb. 16: Challenges of argument

Week VII: Winter Break

Mon., Feb. 21: No Class

Wed., Feb. 23: No class

Week VIII:

Mon., Feb. 28: **Second Test**

Wed., Mar. 2: Further features of language

Week IX:

Mon., Mar. 7: When premises are not acceptable

Wed., Mar. 9: Relevance

Week X:

Mon., Mar. 14: Deductive Logic

Wed., Mar. 16: More on Deductive Logic

Week XI:

Mon., Mar. 21: Van Diagrams Continuing with Categorical Logic

Wed., Mar. 23: **Third Test**

Week XII:

Mon., Mar. 28: Induction: Inductive Generalization

Wed., Mar. 30: Causation & Correlation

Week XIII:

Mon., Apr. 4: Induction as Scientific Methodology

Wed., Apr. 6: Falsification as Scientific Methodology

FINAL EXAM: APRIL 12 AT 8:30 UNTIL 10:30.

7 Standard Statements for dissemination to students in the BA Program, Winter 2011.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their uoguelph.ca> email account regularly: email is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday March 11th**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic

offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs.

It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>