

# Course Outline Form for Winter 2015

## Instructions

- The attached form is to be used for submitting course outlines electronically to the Chair, Director or Associate Director of your academic unit. This form is formatted and structured to be compliant with AODA requirements.
- Please note that all course outlines must be reviewed and approved by the Chair, Director or Associate Director of your academic unit prior to distribution.
- This form is to be used for all undergraduate and diploma courses.
- Please do not modify the format of this form when submitting it to your department for review. Formatting changes (but NOT content changes) can be made to the version published for student use.
- Detailed instructions and guides are provided in *red italic* text. Please replace this text in your final version.
- Content for each section (e.g. lecture content, grading policy, etc.) can be cut and pasted from existing course outlines.
- The completed forms will be transferred to an electronic archive. In subsequent semesters instructors will be able to load, edit and update their course outlines on-line.

### IMPORTANT:

*In order to maintain AODA compliance please do not alter fonts, headings or hyperlinks. Please do not use bold or italic fonts in your text. You may use the style "Strong" to highlight text or the style "Quote" in place of italics (options available in Word under the "Styles" menu on the Home Tab). This accommodates screen readers.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT ASSIGNMENT DATES AND GRADE WEIGHTINGS CANNOT BE ALTERED DURING THE SEMESTER EXCEPT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE POLICY.

A MINIMUM OF ONE GRADED ASSIGNMENT OR TEST MUST BE RETURNED TO STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE FORTIETH CLASS DAY.

# **PHIL\*2100DE, Course Outline: Winter 2015**

## **General Information**

**Course Title: Critical Thinking**

### **Course Description:**

An “argument” in the sense of the word used in logic and philosophy is a set of statements (the premises of the argument) that is intended to provide rational support for some further statement (the conclusion of the argument). We use arguments to convince ourselves and others that some view or position is rationally supported. The purpose of a critical thinking class is to make you better at identifying, analyzing, criticizing, writing about, and constructing arguments.

The course ranges widely over a number of important philosophical topics: truth, knowledge, scientific method, bad reasoning. It also introduces important and useful concepts in the psychological study of reasoning as well as logical concepts. The ultimate goal of the course is, however, practical: to help the student develop useful tools for reasoning in any context.

**Credit Weight: 0.5**

**Academic Department (or campus): Philosophy**

**Semester Offering: W15**

**Class Schedule and Location: DE**

## **Instructor Information**

Instructor Name: Don Dedrick

Instructor Email: [ddedrick@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ddedrick@uoguelph.ca)

Office location and office hours:

Mackinnon 329 Tuesday 12-2; by appointment

## **GTA Information**

GTA Name: Corey Sawkins

GTA Email: [csawkins@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csawkins@uoguelph.ca)

GTA office location and office hours: NA

GTA Name: Rebecca Olivier

GTA Email: [rolivier@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rolivier@uoguelph.ca)

GTA office location and office hours: NA

## **Course Content**

### **Specific Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish arguments from non-arguments
2. Identify different argument types
3. Understand and apply basic logical concepts
4. Utilize strategies appropriate to different argument types in order to evaluate arguments
5. Understand basic issues and concepts in the psychological study of reasoning
6. More effectively distinguish science from pseudo science
7. Recognize a range of mistakes in reasoning – the “fallacies”

### **Lecture Content:**

This course is divided into 12 units with sufficient time at the front end for you to become familiar with the web site and the opportunity to get to know your instructor and those students assigned to your group activities.

Each unit is based on a section of the text and contains required readings in addition to other activities. The framework for the 12 units is as follows:

Unit 01: Claims and Definitions

Unit 02: Arguments 1

Unit 03: Arguments 2

Unit 04: Arguments 3

Unit 05: Arguments 4

Unit 06: Reasoning with Special Kinds of Claims 1

Unit 07: Reasoning with Special Kinds of Claims 2

Unit 08: Reasoning about Experience 1

Unit 09: Reasoning about Experience 2

Unit 10: Possibility

Unit 11: Personal Experience and Truth

Unit 12: Knowledge and Science

## Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Quizzes online	weekly	14	1, 2,3, 7
Discussion/Participation	weekly	16	1-7
Assignment 1	February 8	20	1-4
Assignment 2	March 22	20	5-7
Final Exam	April 13	30	

### Final examination date and time:

#### Tentatively scheduled

EXAM Tues

07:00PM - 09:00PM (2015/04/14)

Room TBA Room TBA

**Final exam weighting:** 30%

## Course Resources

### Required Texts:

The Pocket Guide to Critical Thinking

Edition(s): 3rd or 4th

Author(s): Richard L. Epstein, Carolyn Kernberger and Alex Raffi

Publisher: Advanced Reasoning Forum, 2010 or 2011.

How to Think About Weird Things

Edition(s): 6th or 7th

(either edition is acceptable since they are virtually identical)

Author(s): Theodore Schick and Lewis Vaughn,

Publisher: McGraw Hill Publishing Company, 2010 or 2013.

### Other Resources:

Supplementary readings will be accessible from the course website: Courselink

## **Course Policies**

### **Grading Policies**

Late work is not accepted without acceptable documentation. If accepted, there is no penalty; if not accepted, the grade is zero.

### **Course Policy on Group Work:**

NA

### **Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:**

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without 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.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Consideration**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to

remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:  
[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

### **Accessibility**

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

### **Course Evaluation Information**

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

### **Drop date**

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday March 6. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:  
[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)