

PHIL*2100-01 Critical Thinking [0.50]

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Brief Course Synopsis:

Whether it is when we are out with friends, taking a course or in a high-pressure sales situation, we are often called upon to analyze the arguments of others and to present arguments of our own. Technologies like the Internet and social media are increasing our ability to engage in mass discussion. This makes it especially important for individuals to not only identify bad arguments, but also to know why they are bad arguments. The goal of this course is to provide students with these tools, with special attention given to current discussions in the media and academia.

The core textbook through which this goal shall be achieved is Hughes and Lavery's Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills (5th Edition) used in tandem with Weston's A Rulebook for Arguments (4th Edition).

Topics of study include: the types of reasoning, assessing arguments, detecting logical fallacies, counterargument, irrational techniques of persuasion, and responsible belief.