

# Critical Thinking

## PHIL 145 (Section 002) COURSE OUTLINE

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy \* Winter 2020

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**Course Info:** 10-11:20am TTh, SJ2 1002 | Office hours: Tu 8:30-10am, or by appointment

**Instructor Info:** Andrew D.H. Stumpf | Office: SH 2109\* | Email: adhstumpf@uwaterloo.ca

### 1. Course Description

From the undergraduate calendar:

“An analysis of basic types of reasoning, structure of arguments, critical assessment of information, common fallacies, problems of clarity and meaning.”

We will be trying to figure out what it means to reason and think well, as well as what reasoning and thinking poorly involves, and how to apply our understanding of these things to various contexts we encounter in our everyday lives.

The course proceeds primarily by way of lecture and in class discussion. We will aim to leave some time to take up practice questions from the text.

### 2. Course Goals:

- a. To become familiar with basic terminology / concepts relevant to rational argumentation.
- b. To understand the strengths and weaknesses of your own reasoning, and those of others.
- c. To develop practical reasoning skills valuable to academic, professional & personal contexts.

### 3. Required Text

Govier, Trudy. *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage Learning, 2014. Available in UW Bookstore; check used book store in SLC. Enhanced 7<sup>th</sup> edition also acceptable.

Note that iClickers are mandatory for this course. You can pick one up at the UW Bookstore.

### 4. Course Requirements & Evaluation

	Topic	Due Date	Weighting
Participation	iClicker polls & practice work	Throughout term	15% (10% + 5%)
Five Online Quizzes**	Various Topics (TBA)	See schedule below	50% (5 x 10%)
Assignment	Inductive Arguments in Science	Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> (dropbox)	35%

\* Please see our Learn site for a map including St. Jerome's and Sweeney Hall (SH).

\*\* Quizzes will be taken online through the course's Learn site. Each of the five quizzes will be timed (1 hour long), and will generally be available for a 26 hour period of time.

## 5. Detailed Breakdown of Course Requirements

### 1. Participation (15%)

#### *iClicker Polls (10%)*

Beginning Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and excluding Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, each lecture may include a number of iClicker polls. To get full marks for the iClicker polls, you must attend at least 75% of classes with polls and respond to at least 75% of the polls in each class you attend.

Please visit the course's Learn site as soon as possible to register your iClicker (course materials > content > syllabus > iClicker registration).

Note well: Impersonation (using your absent friend or classmate's iClicker to record their answers for them) can result in a suspension penalty.

#### *Practice Work (5%)*

To prepare you for the assignment, I will be walking you through the steps using a practice assignment. There will be five submissions due (one for each step), deadlines TBA (pay attention to announcements in class and on Learn). These will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

### 2. Five Online Quizzes (50%)

Each of the quizzes will cover material from lectures and assigned readings from the Govier textbook relevant to the topic being tested (see below).

Quiz	Material Covered	Date
Quiz #1	Weeks 1,2 (Govier Chs 1,2)	Jan 23, 10:00pm – Jan 24, 11:54pm
Quiz #2	Weeks 3,4 (Govier Chs 3,4)	Feb 6, 10:00pm – Feb 7, 11:54pm
Quiz #3	Weeks 5,6 (Govier Chs 5,6)	Feb 27, 10:00pm – Feb 28, 11:54pm
Quiz #4	Weeks 7,8 (Govier Chs 7,8)	Mar 12, 10:00pm – Mar 13, 11:54pm
Quiz #5	Weeks 11,12 (Govier Chs 11,12)	Apr 2, 10:00pm – Apr 3, 11:54pm

Each quiz will be given online as a LEARN quiz, and will consist of a combination of true/false, multiple choice, matching and short answer questions. Each quiz will be timed (you will have one hour to write it, starting when you open the quiz), and it will be available for approximately 26 hours.

### 3. Assignment (35%)

The assignment will build on and extend the skills tested throughout the course, up to and including Week 10 (see schedule below). You will be required to read through an article reporting scientific findings to the public, and to identify, standardize and diagram the argument being made (skills developed in Weeks 1-3). You will then have to critically evaluate the argument using concepts drawn from Weeks 4-10 (Weeks 9 & 10 in particular) of the course.

*Due in Learn Dropbox by 11:54pm on March 19<sup>th</sup>.*

## 6. Turnitin.com:

Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students will be given an option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin®. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course.

## 7. Late Penalties

Assignments submitted late will be penalized 10% per day late. Quizzes must be written within the date / time range noted above. See section 10 below for the University's policy on legitimate reasons for accommodations on assignments and tests. Missed assignments or quizzes (where no communication was made up to the due date) cannot be made up.

## 8. Citation Style

Use [MLA format](#) for all citations.

## 9. Class Schedule (subject to minor changes depending on how the term progresses):

Week	Topic(s)	Readings (Govier text)
(1) Jan 7, 9	<b>Intro to Critical Thinking</b>	Preface
(2) Jan 14, 16	<b>What is an Argument? &amp; Argument Structure</b>	Chapters 1 & 2
(3) Jan 21, 23	<b>Looking at Language</b> <i>Online Quiz #1 (Jan 23 10:00pm – Jan 24, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 3
(4) Jan 28, 30	<b>Good Arguments: An Introduction</b>	Chapter 4
(5) Feb 4, 6	<b>Premises: What to Accept and Why</b> <i>Online Quiz #2 (Feb 6 10:00pm – Feb 7, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 5
(6) Feb 11, 13	<b>Working on Relevance</b>	Chapter 6
Feb 18, 20	<i>Reading Week – No Classes @ UW</i>	None
(7) Feb 25, 28	<b>Categorical Logic</b> <i>Online Quiz #3 (Feb 27 10:00pm – Feb 28, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 7
(8) Mar 3, 5	<b>Propositional Logic</b>	Chapter 8
(9) Mar 10, 12	<b>Inductive Reasoning</b> <i>Online Quiz #4 (Mar 12 10:00pm – Mar 13, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 9
(10) Mar 17, 19	<b>Causal Inductive Arguments</b> <i>Assignment due via Learn dropbox, Mar 19<sup>h</sup> by 11:54pm</i>	Chapter 10
(11) Mar 24, 26	<b>Analogies: Reasoning from Case to Case</b> <i>Guest Lecture March 24</i>	Chapter 11
(12) Mar 31, Apr 2	<b>Conductive Arguments</b> <i>Online Quiz #5 (Apr 2 10:00pm – Apr 3, 11:54pm)</i>	Chapter 12

\* You are expected to do the relevant readings before each class, so you can be ready to participate in class.

## 10. UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations

([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

## 11. Academic Integrity:

- **Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage [for more information](#).
- **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).
- **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).
- **Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals](#).
- **Academic Integrity website (Arts):**  
[http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)
- **Academic Integrity Office (UW):** <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

## 12. Note for students with disabilities:

The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

## 13. Mental Health Services

### On Campus

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from the Student Life Centre

### Off campus, 24/7

- **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Extended Assessment Unit Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- **OK2BME**: Support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x222

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

### Contact Health Services

#### [Health Services Building](#)

Call 519-888-4096 to schedule an appointment

Call 1-866-797-0000 for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

### Contact Counselling Services

#### [Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401](#)

Call 519-888-4567 x 32655 to schedule an appointment

[counserv@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counserv@uwaterloo.ca)

## 14. The Writing and Communication Centre

The Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and communication specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or you can drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 25- or 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [uwaterloo.ca/wcc](http://uwaterloo.ca/wcc). Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

**Please note** that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you.