



PHIL 120/98A DE – Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking 2017SA, Summer Session, Term A (May 15, 2016 – Aug. 11, 2017)

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Course Description

This course provides a basic introduction to logic and critical reasoning. It is designed to equip the students with the various tools and concepts needed to deal with both everyday and more technical arguments, together with the skills to analyse, and resolve, everyday confusions, ambiguities, and fallacies. Topics covered in *informal logic* include the distinction between logic and rhetoric; the analysis and resolution of ambiguities; the study of fallacies; and the justification of belief. Topics covered in *formal logic* include the distinction between validity and inductive strength, elementary classical propositional logic, term logic, modal logic, deontic logic, epistemic logic, multi-valued logics, and relevance logic. The course will be of interest not only to philosophy students, but to all students interested in sharpening their logical skills and exploring the nature of reasoning.

Required Text: J. Woods, A. Irvine and D. Walton, *Argument: Critical Thinking, Logic and the Fallacies*, 2nd edition, Pearson Canada, 2004 (ISBN 0130399388). Available in bookstore.

Evaluation

Online Group Discussions	10%
Online Quizzes	40%
In-Class Final Exam	50%

- *Online Group Discussions.* We'll have 10 online group discussions, one per each module starting. Every student will be assigned to one of several small (up to 10 students) groups, within which he or she will be expected to take part in all of these group discussions. The more detailed instructions on the group discussions will be given within the first week of classes. The weight of all the (equally weighed) group discussions is 10% of your final grade.
- *Online Quizzes.* We'll have 9 online quizzes, roughly one per each module. The quizzes will typically be a mixture of short-answer, multiple-choice question, simple problem solving, or longer problem solving type, similar in form and content to the corresponding group discussion questions. The total weight of all the (equally weighed) quizzes is 40% of your final grade.
- *Final Exam.* There will be a written, on-campus sit-down final exam at the end of the course during the examination period. The weight of the final exam is 50% of your final grade in this course. The exact date and place TBA.

Doing the textbook exercises and participation in online discussions are the key ingredients to the success in this course. **I highly recommend doing all the assigned problems (required and recommended) and actively participate in the online discussions** as the real quiz problem may closely resemble them. All starred problems have answers at the back of the book.