

PHILOSOPHY 201: Critical Thinking
A02: 10 – 11:20am DTB A120
A03: 11:30am – 12:50pm HSD A240

Instructor: Dr. C. Klatt
Office: CLE B311
Email: cklatt@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays Noon- 2 pm, and by appointment
Drop-In Hours : To be announced.
Text: **The Power of Critical Thinking** 4th Can. Ed. By Vaughn and MacDonald (Used copies can often be found at the UVic Bookstore or at SUBText). 2nd or 3rd Can. Edition are also fine.

Course Objectives:

Arguments serve as a way to persuade others that something is true. Arguments allow us to increase our knowledge of the world in the absence of direct observation. We see arguments every day: in the newspaper, in advertising, in lectures, in common conversation. Argumentation plays such a large role in our lives that we would be remiss if we did not take the time to learn how to evaluate them effectively. In this class we will investigate various techniques that can be applied to determine the worth of arguments. There is a treatment of elementary principles of deductive and inductive logic as well as informal fallacies. An understanding of the basics of logic will help the student write better essays, read more efficiently and think critically. This course will also be of benefit to anyone who plans to write the LSAT or GRE exam.

Grading:

Best 10 of 15 homework assignments @ 2.5% each	=	25%
5 Tests @ 15% each	=	75%
(Sept. 25 th , Oct. 5 th , Oct. 23 rd , Nov. 9 th , Nov. 30 th)		

Homework:

Homework assignments will be completed online through CourseSpaces. I will spend some time during the first week of class explaining how to write the assignments online. If you have any

If you miss a test, and have a legitimate, documented excuse (e.g. doctor's note, letter from an academic advisor) then email me as soon as possible. You will have an opportunity to make up the missed material.

Other Information

For N grades and DEF status, please see Calendar.

Syllabus:

Sept. 7 th	Chp 1 Arguments, Premises, and Conclusion
11 th	Chp 3 Deduction, Induction, Validity and Soundness
14 th	Implicit Premises, Argument Patterns
18 th	Diagramming Arguments /Review
21 st	Chp 5 Fallacies of Irrelevant Premises
25 th	(covers Chps 1 and 3)
28 th	Fallacies of Unacceptable Premises/Review
Oct. 2 nd	Chp 6 Propositional Logic: Translations
5 th	(covers Chp 5)
9 th	Thanksgiving (no class)
12 th	Truth Tables for Arguments
16 th	Short Truth Tables/Review
19 th	Chp 7 Categorical Logic - Translations
23 rd	(covers Chp 6)
26 th	Venn Diagrams & Syllogisms
30 th	Testing Validity
Nov. 2 nd	Review
6 th	Chp 8 Inductive Reasoning - Enumerative Induction
9 th	(covers Chp 7)
13 th	Reading Break (no class)
16 th	Statistical Syllogisms and Arguments by Analogy
20 th	Causal Arguments
23 rd	Chp 9 Explanations
27 th	Review
Nov. 30 th	(covers Chps 8 and 9)

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

What is the sense of studying philosophy if all that it does for you is enable you to talk with some plausibility about some abstruse questions of logic, etc., and if it does not improve your thinking about the important questions of everyday life?

- Ludwig Wittgenstein