

PHILOSOPHY 201: Critical Thinking  
A01: 10 - 11:20am ELL 167

*Instructor:* Dr. C. Klatt  
*Office:* CLE B311  
*Email:* cklatt@uvic.ca  
*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 12-2 pm, Fridays 1 - 2:30pm and by appointment  
*Drop-In Hours:* CLE B315, Tuesdays 11:30am - 1pm, Wednesdays 2:30 - 4pm, and select Fridays 1 - 2:20pm.  
*Text:* *The Power of Critical Thinking* 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Can. Ed. By Vaughn and MacDonald (Used copies can often be found at the UVic Bookstore or at SUBText).

*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%
(Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Mar. 13 <sup>th</sup> , Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup> )		

No Final Exam

The final grade will be recorded as a percentage.

A+ = 90 - 100; A = 85 - 89; A- = 80 - 84; B+ = 77 - 79; B = 73 - 76; B- = 70 - 72; C+ = 65 - 69; C = 60 - 64; D = 50 - 59;



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.

Information regarding religious observance can be located in the UVIC Calendar, and in posted Department of Philosophy Policies.

Tests will be returned in class as soon as they are graded. For those students who have signed a Department of Philosophy Privacy Waiver (available on CourseSpaces), graded work will be distributed in class. All other graded materials must be picked up from the instructor during office hours.

### *Academic Misconduct*

See the section *Policy on Academic Integrity* in the UVic calendar for information on cheating and its consequences. In particular, note that:

"Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- copying the answers or other work of another person
- sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations except where the instructor has authorized collaborative work
- having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners
- accessing unauthorized information when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations
- impersonating a student on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such impersonation
- accessing or attempting to access examinations or tests before it is permitted to do so

Students found communicating with one another in any way or having unauthorized books, papers, notes or electronic devices in their possession during a test or examination will be considered to be in violation of this policy.

### Aiding Others to Cheat

It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above."

Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the test or assignment or failure in the course.

*Syllabus:*

Jan. 5th	Chp 1 Arguments, Premises, and Conclusion
9th	Chp 3 Deduction, Induction, Validity and Soundness
12th	Implicit Premises, Argument Patterns
16th	Diagramming Arguments /Review
19th	Chp 5 Fallacies of Irrelevant Premises
23rd	(covers Chps 1 and 3)
26th	Fallacies of Unacceptable Premises/Review
30th	Chp 7 Propositional Logic: Translations
Feb. 2nd	(covers Chp 5)
6th	Truth Tables for Arguments
9th	Short Truth Tables/Review
13th, 16th	Reading Week (no classes)
20th	Chp 6 Categorical Logic - Translations
23rd	(covers Chp 7)
27th	Venn Diagrams & Syllogisms
Mar. 2nd	Testing Validity
6th	Review
9th	Chp 8 Inductive Reasoning - Enumerative Induction
13th	(covers Chp 6)
16th	Statistical Syllogisms and Arguments by Analogy
20th	Causal Arguments
23rd	Chp 9 Explanations
27th	Review
30th	Review
Apr. 3rd	(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