

PHIL 201 A02 – Fall 2018
Critical Thinking

Instructor: Eric Hochstein

CRN: 12515

Time: Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30 PM – 2:20 PM

Place: Human & Social Development A240

Office Hours (in Clearihue B330): Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm; and by appointment

Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

Description: We are living in a time when terms like are frequently thrown around; where climate change and the safety of vaccinations have been called into question despite overwhelming scientific evidence and agreement in support of them. We are constantly bombarded with information from different sources, some of it good, and a lot of it bad. Being able to tell what kind of information is worth taking seriously, and what kind is not, is more important than ever. The purpose of this

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77	79	B+	6
73	76	B	5
70	72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a **good** comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

Week 1 (Sept 5 & Sept 7): Introduction and Basics

Reading: pages xiii - xx

Week 2 (Sept 11, Sept 12 & Sept 14): Argument Structures and Deductive Reasoning

Reading: pages 1 - 34

Week 3 (Sept 18, Sept 19 & Sept 21): Argument Structures and Ampliative Reasoning

Readings: pages 35 - 60

Week 4 (Sept 25, Sept 26 & Sept 28): Fallacies of Reasoning

Readings: pages 92-123

September 28th: Mid-term 1

Week 5 (Oct 2, Oct 3 & Oct 5): When, How, and Why our Brains Deceive Us (Part 1)

Readings: pages 184 - 216

Week 6 (Oct 9, Oct 10 & Oct 12): When, How, and Why our Brains Deceive Us (Part 2)

Readings: pages 184 - 216

Week 7 (Oct 16, Oct 17 & Oct 19): When Statistics and Numbers Lie

Readings: pages 124 - 150

Week 8 (Oct 23, Oct 24 & Oct 26): How Language Influences Reasoning

Readings: pages 61 - 90

October 26th: Mid-term 2

Week 9 (Oct 30, Oct 31 & Nov 2): How Society Shapes the Way we Think

Readings: pages 219 - 249

Week 10 (Nov 6, Nov 7 & Nov 9): Thinking Critically about the Media (Part 1)

Readings: pages 290 - p. 316

Week 11 (Nov 16): Thinking Critically about the Media (Part 2)

Readings: pages 290 - p. 316

No class Tuesday November 13

No class Wednesday, November 14

Week 12 (Nov 20, Nov 21 & Nov 23): Good and Bad Reasoning in Science (Part 1)

Readings: pages 252 - 287

November 20th: Mid-term 3

Week 13 (Nov 27, Nov 28 & Nov 30): Good and Bad Reasoning in Science (Part 2)

Readings: pages 252 - 287

Week 14 (Dec 3 & Dec 4): Spill over and Review

No Additional Readings for This Week

Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:

All students registered in the course are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, it will be acknowledged by disciplinary penalties. If you need help in learning how to avoid academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. You can find the university's Policy on Academic Integrity here:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you are seeking editing help, please note that the university has recently adopted a strict view about seeking the help of others for editing. They say (this can be found in the link above):

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work.

The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. The instructor should specify the extent of editing that is being authorized. Review by fellow students and tutoring that do not include editing are normally permitted.

Note for students with disabilities:

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<http://www.uvic.ca/services/rcsd/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help 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 them at the beginning of each academic term.