

# PHIL 201 A01(22323)<sup>2</sup> CRITICAL THINKING

Spring 2018, University of Victoria

Department of Philosophy

Course website: available <http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>

## Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Clifford Roberts [cliffordroberts@uvic.ca](mailto:cliffordroberts@uvic.ca)

Office hours: Th 1:30 - 3:30 (or by appt.)

Office: CLE B38

## Meeting Times & Place

Mon-Th 1000-11:20

Hickman Building 10

## Course Description

Every day each of us is bombarded by attempts to persuade us of the truth of some claim, often with a view to influencing our actions and behavior. Regardless of whether it is scientists, lobbyists, advertisers, corporations, or even acquaintances or friends doing the persuading, we often do so. But how do we adjudicate these myriad arguments? How do we figure out which arguments and which merits appear to be? This course attempts to provide you with some of the skills, methods and criteria for evaluating the arguments you may encounter in daily life. The goal of the course is to enable you not only to make up your own mind about whether an argument is good or bad, but to do so in a rationally defensible, systematic and rigorous way.

## Course Texts

Required: Vaughn, Lewis & MacDonald, *This Power of Critical Thinking: Canadian Edition* (Oxford University Press)

## Course Evaluation

### (1) Problem Sets

10 problem sets will be assigned during the term. 2 of these ten (the two receiving the lowest grades) will be dropped and each of the remaining 8 will be 5% of your final grade.

Since there are 8 problem sets worth 3.75%, the total value is 40% of your final grade.

Answers to the problem sets will be provided online on CourseSpaces after the due date.

### (2) In-class Tests

3 in-class tests will be held during the term, each (40/3)% for a total of 40% of your final grade. Answers to the in-class tests will be provided online on CourseSpaces after the due date.

#### (4) Class Participation/Attendance

There is no grade for class participation and I will not be taking attendance. The lecture  
VOLGHV IRU HDFK FODVV ZLOO EH SRVW H. G. H. Q. L. Q. H. R. Q.  
I expect you to attend the lectures and strongly encourage you to do so for a more expansive  
and detailed understanding of the concepts you will be reading about.

#### Course Grading

Grades will be assigned in percentage points. The final grade for the course will be converted to a  
letter grade according to the follow table.

Grades	GPV	Percentage
A+	9	90-100
A	8	85-89
A-	7	80-84
B+	6	77-79
B	5	73-76
B-	4	70-72
C+	3	65-69
C	2	60-64
D	1	50-59
F	0	0-49

#### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that the student  
submits, whether individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust  
and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these values in all activities related  
to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic  
integrity are serious academic offences.

#### The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty  
are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that  
other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams and projects.

#### The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity,  
but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If the student is unsure about the standards  
for citations or for referencing sources, the instructor should be consulted. Depending on the  
VHYHULW\ RI WKH FDVH SHQDOWLHV LQFOXGH D ZDUQLQJ  
or a suspension.

,W LV WKH VWXGHQW V UHVSROWLW\ SROLW\ RYR DFDGHPLW DQG  
<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

### Policy on Late or Missed Assignments

Late problem sets will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero for the assignment. Missed tests can be made up only if a student has a documented disability; otherwise, students will receive a zero for the missed test. The previous policies do not apply to students with documented disabilities; all attempt will be made to accommodate such students including, but not restricted to, providing makeup assignments and tests.

### Course Schedule

Dates & Topics	Assignments
<u>Week 1</u> What is Critical Thinking? Jan 4	Reading: Chapter 1 Problem Set #1 due Jan 9
<u>Week 2</u> The General Nature & Kind Arguments Jan 8 & 11	Reading: Chapter 3 Problem Set #2 due Jan 16

Week 3Patterns of Argument &  
Diagramming  
Jan 15 & 18

Dates & Topics	Assignments
<u>Week 9</u> : Categorical Logic Feb 26 & Mar 1	Reading: Chapter 6 Problem Set #7 due Mar 6
<u>Week 10</u> : Propositional Logic Mar 5 & 8	Reading: Chapter 7 Problem Set #8 due Mar 13
<u>Week 11</u> : Propositional Logic Mar 12 & 15	Reading: Chapter 7 Problem Set #9 due Mar 20

Week 12: Propositional Logic