

Dr. C. Klatt

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 1 - 2pm and by appt.

Drop-In Hours: To be announced.

Text: *The Power of Critical Thinking* 2nd, 3rd or 4th 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

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

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

Syllabus:

Jan. 7 th	Chp 1 Arguments, Premises, and Conclusion
10 th	Chp 3 Deduction, Induction, Validity and Soundness
14 th	Implicit Premises, Argument Patterns
17 th	Diagramming Arguments /Review
21 st	Chp 5 Fallacies of Irrelevant Premises
24 th	(covers Chps 1 and 3)
28 th	Fallacies of Unacceptable Premises/Review
31 st	Chp 7 Propositional Logic: Translations
Feb. 4 th	(covers Chp 5)
7 th	Truth Tables for Arguments
11 th	Short Truth Tables/Review
14 th	Chp 6 Categorical Logic - Translations
18 th , 21 st	Reading Break - no classes
25 th	(covers Chp 7)
28 th	Venn Diagrams & Syllogisms
Mar. 4 th	Testing Validity
7 th	Review
11 th	Chp 8 Inductive Reasoning - Enumerative Induction
14 th	(covers Chp 6)
18 th	Statistical Syllogisms and Arguments by Analogy
21 st	Causal Arguments
25 th	Chp 9 Explanations
28 th	Review
Apr. 1 st	Review
Apr. 4 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?