

PHILOSOPHY 201 (A01): Critical Thinking
CRN: 12532

Grading:

Best 10 of 13 homework assignments @ 2.5% each	=	25%
3 Tests @ 20% each (Sept. 27 th , Oct. 18 th , Nov. 15 th)	=	60%
1 Test @ 15% (Dec. 2nd)	=	15%

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; F = 0 - 49.

Homework:

Homework assignments will be completed online through BrightSpaces. I will spend some time during the first week of class explaining how to write the assignments online. If you have any questions, please email me. The assignments may be written any time before 11:30 pm (Victoria time) on the day it is due. For exact due dates see the *Syllabus* below. If you miss the homework assignment you will be able to view the answers online after the due date as long as you have opened the assignment before the due time. Please note that it will be very difficult to do well in this course if you do not attempt most of the homework. Late assignments will not be graded.

Course Material on BrightSpaces:

I will put my lecture overheads, homework assignments, practice tests, solutions to selected homework problems, and any handouts given in class on BrightSpaces. I will also use our class BrightSpaces site to post grades.

When you need help:

There are a number of different ways to receive assistance with any problems that you have with the material:

i) Practice Questions on BrightSpaces - Practice assignments with detailed explanations for the answers are available on our BrightSpaces site.

ii) Drop-in hours on Zoom - time and dates to be announced
The instructor will be available to discuss any problems that you have with the course material. This will be a group meeting.

iii) Office hours on Zoom - time and dates to be announced. The instructor will be available to discuss any issues that you have with the course. This will be a one-on-one meetings. Please sign up for meetings by emailing the instructor at cklatt@uvic.ca.

Please feel free to join me during the drop-in hours to discuss any difficulties with the course material or homework problems. Most of the difficulties that students have with logic can be cleared up quite easily. I encourage you to work and study with your classmates; they can be a great resource. However, please see below for information about what kinds of sharing information count as academic misconduct. If you have any questions, please ask me in advance. If you cannot attend the scheduled office hours then please email me and we will make other arrangements.

When you miss a test or assignment:

Since I will be counting only the top 10 of 13 assignment grades, there is no need to contact me unless your illness causes you to miss more than three assignments. If you need to miss an assignment, be sure to open the assignment before the due date if you'd like to see the answers afterwards.

If you miss a test, 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.

Academic Misconduct:

See the section *Policy on Academic Integrity* in the UVic calendar for information on cheating and its consequences.

https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies.

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

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.

Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website

Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity. Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

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

Syllabus:

Unit 1: Arguments

Sept. 8 th – 10 th	Arguments, Premises, and Conclusion	
Sept. 13 th – 17 th	Deduction, Induction, Validity, Soundness, Counter Example Method	Assg 1 Due Sept. 16 th
Sept. 20 th – 24 th	Implicit Premises, Argument Patterns, Diagramming Arguments, Review	Assg 2 Due Sept. 20 th Assg 3 Due Sept. 23 rd
Sept. 28 th – 29 th	TEST #1	

Unit 2: Deductive Arguments

Sept. 29 th – Oct. 1 st	Propositional Translations	
Oct. 4 th – 8 th	Truth Tables	Assg 4 Due Oct. 7 th
Oct. 12 th – 15 th	Short Truth Tables/Review	Assg 5 Due Oct. 12 th Assg 6 Due Oct. 15 th
Oct. 18 th – 19 th	TEST #2	

Unit 3: Inductive Arguments

Oct. 20 th – 22 nd	Enumerative Induction	
Oct. 25 th – 29 th	Args by Analogy, Causal Args	Assg 7 Due Oct. 28 th
Nov. 1 st – 5 th	Explanations and Hypotheses	Assg 8 Due Nov. 4 th
Nov. 8 th – 9 th	Review	Assg 9 Due Nov. 8 th
Nov. 10 th – 12 th	READING BREAK	
No		