

PHILOSOPHY 201 (A01): Critical Thinking
CRN: 22561
Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. C. Klatt
Email: cklatt@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Schedule to be posted on BrightSpace
Drop-In Hours: Schedule to be posted on BrightSpace
Text: No text to buy for this course. Class notes will be provided online.

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.

Lectures, Assignments, Tests and Help Sessions:

Phil 201 will be run as an asynchronous course. That is, there is no requirement to be online at any one given time. Work can be completed when convenient for you but there will be specific due dates for assignments and tests.

All lectures will be pre-recorded and available to view at any time on BrightSpaces.

Assignments will be completed online. They are untimed but must be submitted before the due date on the syllabus. Late submissions will not be graded.

Tests will be completed online. You may write the test at any time on the test dates. Once you start, the test will close after 90 minutes.

Live help sessions will be run at various times through the week. These sessions are not mandatory.

Grading:

Best 10 of 13 homework assignments @ 2.5% each	=	25%
3 Tests @ 20% each (Jan. 27 th , Feb. 16 th , Mar. 17 th)	=	60%
1 Test @ 15% (Apr. 5 th)		

The instructor and teaching assistant 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

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."

