



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## Philosophy 275 Lec 01 – “Scientific & Critical Reasoning”

Fall Term 2010

### Course Outline

**Lectures: MWF 1500-1550 in ENA 201**

**Instructor:** Dr. Megan Delehanty

**Office:** SS 1240

**Phone:** 403-220-2828

**Email:** [mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** W 16:00-17:00 or by appt.

**Teaching Assistant:** Philip Puszczalowski

**Office:** SS 1227

**Phone:** 403-220-6463

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**Office Hours:** R 1300-1500 or by appt.

### ***Course Description***

This course is an introduction to techniques for evaluating arguments. Arguments are crucial to philosophy, but we also encounter them all the time in everyday life. Should gay marriage be legalized? What should be done about global warming? Does the scientific data at hand prove that X (X = the climate is changing, Vioxx is safe, etc.)? Who—you or I—should pay for the movie tonight? Answering each of these questions involves an argument. Some arguments are good, others are really bad. This course will help you to identify and make good arguments and avoid those embarrassing bad ones. We will examine primarily arguments in ordinary language as they occur in areas of everyday life, but we will also learn some elementary symbolic logic.

We will go through many problems and exercises in lectures. Nevertheless, it is crucial that you go through many more problems on your own. Some problems will be assigned as part of the homework assignments, but it is the student's responsibility to go through additional problems on his/her own. There are many problems in the text and some of these will be assigned as suggested (non-graded) homework each class. You are encouraged to do as many of the problems in the book as you can, however, particularly if you are finding the material in a given section to be difficult. The role of tutorials is to address questions or difficulties with the exercises. Any questions of a conceptual nature will be taken up in lectures, but we will not address in lectures questions regarding the problem sets.

### ***Course Text***

Copi, I.M., and Cohen, C. (2009). *Introduction to Logic* (13th edition) Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

### ***Course Evaluation***

30% Five assignments (6% each)

70% Four in-class exams (Exams 1-3, 20% each; Exam #4, 10%)

There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

### **Grading Scale**

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

No late assignments or make-up exams are permitted unless a medical note is provided and/or permission is granted by the instructor *prior* to the set date. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the lectures, assignments, and due dates for assignments. Assignments will be announced and their due dates announced in class. This information, *and the assignments themselves*, will also be posted on Blackboard.

### **Schedule (subject to change)**

Week 1	M Sept 13 Introduction W Sept 15 Chapter 1 – Basic Logical Concepts F Sept 17 Chapter 1 (cont'd)	
Week 2	M Sept 20 Chapter 1 (cont'd) W Sept 22 Chapter 2 – Analyzing Arguments F Sept 24 Chapter 2 (cont'd)	<b>HW #1 DUE</b>
Week 3	M Sept 27 Chapter 3– Language and Definitions W Sept 29 Chapter 3 (cont'd) F Oct 1 <b>Exam #1</b>	
Week 4	M Oct 4 Chapter 5 - Categorical Propositions W Oct 6 Chapter 5 (cont'd) F Oct 8 Chapter 5 (cont'd)	
Week 5	M Oct 11 <b>THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS</b> W Oct 13 Chapter 6 - Categorical Syllogisms F Oct 15 Chapter 6 (cont'd)	<b>HW #2 Due</b>
Week 6	M Oct 18 Chapter 6 –(cont'd) W Oct 20 Chapter 8 - Symbolic Logic F Oct 22 <b>Exam #2</b>	
Week 7	M Oct 25 Chapter 8 (cont'd) W Oct 27 Chapter 8 (cont'd) F Oct 29 Chapter 8 (cont'd)	<b>HW #3 Due</b>
Week 8	M Nov 1 Chapter 9 - Methods of Deduction W Nov 3 Chapter 9 (cont'd) F Nov 5 <b>NO CLASS</b> (instructor away)	
Week 9	M Nov 8 Chapter 9 (cont'd) W Nov 10 Chapter 10 – Quantification Theory F Nov 12 <b>NO CLASS (Reading break)</b>	<b>HW #4 Due</b>
Week 10	M Nov 15 Chapter 10 (cont'd) W Nov 17 Chapter 10 (cont'd) F Nov 19 <b>Exam #3</b>	
Week 11	M Nov 22 Chapter 11 – Analogical Reasoning W Nov 24 Chapter 12 – Causal Reasoning F Nov 26 Chapter 12 (cont'd)	
Week 12	M Nov 29 Chapter 13 – Science and Hypothesis W Dec 1 Chapter 13 (cont'd) F Dec 3 Chapter 14 - Probability	<b>HW #5 DUE</b>
Week 13	M Dec 6 Chapter 14 (cont'd) W Dec 8 Review or catching up F Dec 10 <b>Exam #4</b>	

## **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as **an extremely serious academic offence**, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)).

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

## **SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).