



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 275 Lec 01 – Scientific and Critical Reasoning

Fall Term 2015

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 14:00-14:50 in EEEL 210

Instructor: Dr. Megan Delehanty

Office: SS1240

Phone: 403-220-2828

Email: mdelehan@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Mondays 12:30-13:30 or by appt.

TA: Aaron Thomas-Bolduc

Office: SS 1229

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Office Hours: Thursdays 13:00-15:00

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.

Required Text: Baronett, Stan, (2013), *Logic*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press.

Evaluation:

- 1) 30% Five homework assignments (6% each)
- 2) 50% Three in-class exams (15% for Exam #1, 15% for Exam #2, 20% for Exam #3)
- 3) 20% Final case study assignment (Due Dec. 8 by 4:00, to be turned in to the physical dropbox in the Philosophy department, 12th floor of the Social Sciences building)

No assignment is such that a passing grade on it is required to pass the course.

There will be NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Grading Scale:

96-100 = A+	80-84 = B+	65-69 = C+	50-54 = D
90-95 = A	75-79 = B	60-64 = C	0-49 = F
85-89 = A-	70-74 = B-	55-59 = C-	

(Note that final averages will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.)

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. No extra credit assignments will be provided.

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the lectures, assignments, and due dates for assignments. Some material covered in class, particularly in the last several weeks of the term, is not in the textbook. Students are responsible for material covered in class as well as for material in the textbook. Assignments will be announced and their due dates announced in class. This information, *and the assignments themselves*, will also be posted on D2L.

Schedule (subject to change, except for dates of exams):

Week 1	W Sept. 9 F Sept. 11	Introduction Chapter 1
Week 2	M Sept. 14 W Sept. 16 F Sept. 18	Ch. 1 (cont'd) Ch. 1 (cont'd) Ch. 1 (cont'd)
Week 3	M Sept. 21 W Sept. 23 F Sept 25	Chapter 2 Ch. 2 (cont'd) Chapter 3
Week 4	M Sept. 28 W Sept. 30 F Oct. 2	Exam #1 Ch. 3 (cont'd) Ch. 3 (cont'd)
Week 5	M Oct. 5 W Oct. 7 F Oct. 9	Ch. 3 (cont'd) Ch. 3 (cont'd) Chapter 4
Week 6	M Oct. 12 W Oct. 14 F Oct. 16	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) Ch. 4 (cont'd) Ch. 4 (cont'd)
Week 7	M Oct. 19 W Oct. 21 F Oct 23	Ch. 4 (cont'd) Chapter 7 Exam #2
Week 8	M Oct 26 W Oct 28 F Oct 30	NO CLASS (Instructor away) Ch. 7 (cont'd) Ch. 7 (cont'd)
Week 9	M Nov. 2 W Nov. 4 F Nov. 6	Chapter 8 Ch. 8 (cont'd) Ch.8 (cont'd)
Week 10	M Nov. 9 W Nov. 11 F Nov. 13	Ch. 8 (cont'd) NO CLASS (Reading Days) NO CLASS (Reading Days)
Week 11	M Nov. 16 W Nov. 18 F Nov. 20	Exam #3 Chapter 10 Ch. 10 (cont'd)
Week 12	M Nov. 23 W Nov. 25 F Nov. 27	Ch. 10 (cont'd) Ch. 10 (cont'd) Chapter 13

Week 13	M Nov. 30 W Dec. 2 F Dec. 4	Ch. 13 (cont'd) Chapter 14 Ch. 14 (cont'd)
Week 14	M Dec. 7	No class - Final assignment due (by 4:00)

Academic Honesty

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, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. 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 or teaching assistant.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2015:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)