



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 275 Lec 01
Scientific & Critical Reasoning
Winter 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: T/Th 14:00-15:15

Location: ST 143

Instructor: Dr. Megan Delehanty

Office: SS 1240

Phone: 403-220-2828

Email: mdelehan@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours: Thursday 15:30-16:30
or by appointment**

Teaching Assistant: Dan Kary

Office: SS 1239

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**Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12
or by appointment**

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.

The class lectures are designed to explain the conceptual aspects of the material. 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. (2011). *Introduction to Logic* (13th edition), Pearson Prentice Hall.

Course Requirements

30% Five assignments (6% each)

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

Note: There will NOT be a 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

45-49 = D

85-89 = A-

70-74 = B-

55-59 = C-

40-44 = D-

< 40 = 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. Some material covered in class, particularly in the last few 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 Blackboard.

Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1	T Jan 10 Th Jan 12	Introduction Chapter 1 - Basic Logical Concepts
Week 2	T Jan 17 Th Jan 19	Chapter 1 (cont'd) Chapter 2 – Analyzing Arguments
Week 3	T Jan 24 Th Jan 26	Chapter 2 (cont'd) Chapter 3 – Language and Definitions
Week 4	T Jan 31 Th Feb 2	Chapter 3 – (cont'd) Exam #1
Week 5	T Feb 7 Th Feb 9	Chapter 5 - Categorical Propositions Chapter 5 (cont'd)
Week 6	T Feb 14 Th Feb 16	Chapter 6 - Categorical Syllogisms Chapter 6 (cont'd)
Week 7	T Feb 21 Th Feb 23	NO CLASS (Reading break) NO CLASS (Reading break)
Week 8	T Feb 28 Th March 1	Exam #2 Chapter 8 – Symbolic Logic

Week 9	T March 6 Th March 8	Chapter 8 (cont'd) Chapter 9 - Methods of Deduction
Week 10	T March 13 Th March 15	Chapter 9 (cont'd) Chapter 9 (cont'd)
Week 11	Tu March 20 Th March 22	Chapter 10 – Quantification Theory Exam #3
Week 12	Tu March 27 Th March 29	Chapter 11 – Analogical Reasoning Chapter 12 – Causal Reasoning
Week 13	Tu April 3 Th April 5	Chapter 13 – Science and Hypothesis Chapter 14 - Probability
Week 14	Tu April 10 Th April 12	catch-up or review Exam #4

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.