

PHIL 145 Critical Thinking
Fall 2008
Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Doreen Fraser

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Office: HH 330

Office Hours: T.B.A.

Additional Office Hours will be held prior to tests

TA's and TA Office Hours TBA

Course Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:20 a.m., B1 271

Course Description

In this course we will analyze and assess a wide variety of reasoning patterns. Topics will include analysis of argument structure, identification of fallacies, arguments based on evidence, and decision-making under conditions of uncertainty. By the end of the course, you will be able to critically assess claims encountered in many contexts, including claims presented in the media and scientific claims.

Text

Merrilee H. Salmon. *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking*. 5th Ed. Thomson Wadsworth. 2007.

This text is required. It is available at the UW Bookstore. I have also placed one copy on 1 hour reserve at the Dana Porter library.

Course Web Site

There is a course web site for this course on UW-ACE. To access the log in page, type the following address into your web browser:

<http://www.uwace.uwaterloo.ca>

The username and password should be the same as your UW Quest username and password. This web site will contain useful information such as practice problems and Power Point presentations shown in class.

Coursework

Your grade for the course will be broken down as follows

7% - Assignment #1, Due at the beginning of class Tuesday, Sept. 30

13% - Assignment #2, Due at the beginning of class Thursday, Oct. 16

20% - Assignment #3, Due at the beginning of class Thursday, Nov. 27

30% - Test #1, Scheduled in class Thursday, Oct. 30

30% - Test #2, Scheduled during the exam period

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Your **best preparation** for both the assignments and the tests is to attend class regularly, to read the assigned chapters of the textbook, and to complete the practice problems.

Assignment #1 will cover material from Chapters 1 and 2 of Salmon and the lectures on this material. Assignment #2 will cover material from Chapters 3 and 4 of Salmon and the lectures on this material. Assignment #3 will cover material from Chapters 5-7 of Salmon and the lectures on this material. If for some reason you are unable to attend class the day an assignment is due, you may hand in the assignment BEFORE CLASS to the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Secretary in HH 365.

The tests will not be cumulative. Test #1 will cover material from Chapters 1-4 of Salmon and the lectures on this material. Test #2 will cover material from Chapters 5-7 of Salmon and the lectures on this material.

Policy on Late Assignments and Missed Tests

Late assignments will only be accepted in extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious illness, death in the family). Appropriate documentation must be provided (e.g., note from doctor). If for some reason you are unable to attend class the day an assignment is due, you may hand in the assignment BEFORE CLASS to the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Secretary in HH 365.

Missed tests may only be made up in extenuating circumstances (e.g., serious illness, death in the family). Appropriate documentation must be provided (e.g., note from doctor). You must inform me in advance (unless, of course, your extenuating circumstance prevents you from doing this). Note, in particular, that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Academic Offenses

Note that all academic offenses (e.g., copying assignments, cheating on tests) will be prosecuted. Assignments must be entirely your own work; collaboration is not permitted. As per Faculty of Arts policy,

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to

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promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

For more information on avoiding academic offences, consult the web site www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

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Schedule

Sept. 9:

Overview

Sept. 11, 16, 18:

Chapter 1

Sept. 23, 25:

Chapter 2

*****Sept. 30***:**

Assignment #1 Due

Sept. 25, 30; Oct. 2:

Chapter 3

Oct. 2, 7, 9, 14:

Chapter 4

*****Oct. 16***:**

Assignment #2 Due

Oct. 14, 16, 21, 23; Nov. 4:

Chapter 5

Oct. 28:

Review for Test #1

*****Oct. 30***:**

Test #1

Nov. 6, 11, 13:

Chapter 6

Nov. 18, 20, 25:

Chapter 7

*****Nov. 27***:**

Assignment #3 Due

*****Exam period***:**

Test #2