

University of Toronto Mississauga, Philosophy Department
PHL247H5S Critical Reasoning

Lecture Time: Tuesday, Thursday 6:00–9:00pm
Lecture Location: IB150

Lecturer: Chris Dragos
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 5:00–5:45pm
Office Location: TBA

Course Description:

This course stresses the development of skills necessary for effective intellectual analysis and argumentation. Students will learn about the basic components of valid and sound arguments and come to recognize common fallacies of reasoning. This course also includes introductions to categorical and truth-functional logic. Students will translate written arguments from assigned readings into formal structures that can be evaluated for validity and soundness. In short, this course aims to foster skills for clear thinking, persuasive argumentation, and concise, cogent writing.

Required Texts:

- (1) Moore & Parker (2017), *Critical Thinking 12th Edition* (McGraw Hill)
- (2) Supplementary readings on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

1. Test 1	20%	In Class, July 11
2. Test 2	25%	In Class, July 25
3. Written Assignment	20%	Due Aug. 4 @11:59pm
4. Exam	30%	Date TBA
5. Participation	5%	

- **Test 1** will cover all material to-date.
- **Test 2** will cover all material after Test 1.
- The **Written Assignment** is intended to foster accuracy of interpretation and clarity and concision of writing. The word limit will be strictly enforced.
- The **exam** will be cumulative.

Course Page: Materials for the course (including assignments and lecture slides) will be available on the course page, and all announcements will take place through the course page. It is your responsibility to check the course page on a regular basis and to keep up-to-date with the course. It is also your responsibility to ensure that you are receiving emails sent through the course page.

Email Policy: Emails will generally be answered within 48 hours. However, emails might not be answered if (1) the relevant information is available on the course webpage or syllabus, or (2) if the question is best addressed during class or office hours (e.g. a detailed philosophical question).

Extensions and Late Assignments: Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day, unless prior arrangements have been made with your TA for an extension or there is a medical or family emergency (in which case documentation may be required). Plan ahead: you may request extensions up until 48 hours before assignments are due; after that, extensions will be granted only for illness or family emergencies.

Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services Office (Davis 2037) as soon as possible. I will work with you and Accessibility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from a university is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the university treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The university outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences (<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/students/scenarios/plagiarism>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Copyright in Instructional Settings: If a student wishes to reproduce lecture presentations, course notes or other course materials, the student must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

NOTES:

- (1) This schedule may change. Any changes will be announced on the course page.
- (2) You are expected to have the readings completed prior to the lecture.

Tues. July 2: Housekeeping & Overview

Readings: None

UNIT 1: NUTS & BOLTS & FALLACIES

Thurs. July 4: Argumentative Reasoning & Writing

Readings: ch.2

Tues. July 9: Rhetoric—Credibility & Persuasion

Readings: chs.4-5

Thurs. July 11: Fallacies

Readings: ch.6

[TEST 1 at beginning of class]

Tues. July 16: Fallacies (cont'd)

Readings: chs.7-8

UNIT 2: CATEGORICAL LOGIC

Thurs. July 18: Categorical Claims, Translation, & Square of Opposition

Readings: ch.9 (pp.TBA)

Tues. July 23: Categorical Operations, Categorical Syllogisms, & Validity

Readings: ch.9 (pp.TBA)

UNIT 3: TRUTH FUNCTIONAL LOGIC

Thurs. July 25: Truth Tables & Symbolization

Readings: ch.10 (pp.TBA)

[TEST 2 at beginning of class, on Fallacies & Unit 2]

Tues. July 30: Deduction—Rules of Argumentation

Readings: ch.10 (pp.TBA)

Thurs. Aug. 1: Deduction—Truth Equivalency

Readings: ch.10 (pp.TBA)

[Sun. Aug. 4: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT due @ 11:59pm]

Tues. Aug. 6: Induction

Readings: ch.11

Thurs. Aug. 8: Exam Review

Readings: None

[FINAL EXAM—date and location TBA]