

Last Revised: September 2019

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Title:** Critical Thinking **Course Number:** PHIL 101 **Credits:** 3

**Total Weeks:** 14 (Fall, Spring) **Total Hours:** 39  
 12 (Summer) **Course Level:**  First Year  Second Year  
 New  Revised Course  
 Replacement Course

**Department:** Humanities **Department Head:** P. Best **Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable):** N/A

**Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE):** NONE

**Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE):** NONE

**Precluded Courses:** N/A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides students with the skills that are needed to recognize, analyze, evaluate, and construct good arguments by studying the structures and conditions that make up arguments, both good and bad. The course will also examine the strategies and techniques used in the reasoning process while paying close attention to certain elements of language such as how analogies and statistics are used in arguments. This is a course in applied logic, rather than formal logic; thus, moral reasoning, scientific reasoning, legal reasoning, and other modes of reasoning will be used as examples to illustrate the use and misuse of reason.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Be prepared to rationally confront controversial issues.
- Be prepared to rationally defend claims on matters that are open to dispute.
- Be able to appreciate methodology of academic disciplines.
- Be prepared to engage in discourse that requires a combination of open-mindedness & skepticism.
- Be prepared to analyze and evaluate a variety of arguments in everyday discourse.

**INSTRUCTION AND GRADING**

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other ( <i>specify</i> ):	
Total	39

**Grading System:** Letter Grades  Percentage  Pass/Fail  Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory  Other

**Specify passing grade:** 50%

**Evaluation Activities and Weighting** (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 10, 10 % <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i>	Lab Work: %	Participation: % <i>Specify nature of participation:</i>	Project: % <i>Specify nature of project:</i>
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 40%	Final Exam: 40%	Other: % <i>Specify:</i>

**TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS**

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

Trudy Govier, A Practical Study of Argument, 7th edition, (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing co., 2014)

**COURSE TOPICS**

List topics and sequence covered.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	Introduction; Philosophy in Context
Week 2	Definitions; Arguments & explanations, Indicator words
Week 3	Standardizing & diagramming arguments, missing premises & conclusions, linked & convergent premises
Week 4	Deductively entailed arguments and evaluating arguments
Week 5	Problems with language: ambiguity & vagueness; emotionally charged language, euphemisms.
Week 6	True & false statements, the acceptability criterion, some fallacies
	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Week 7	The Relevancy criterion; Fallacies (ad hominem, straw man, appeal to popularity, false dilemma, etc.)
Week 8	Propositional Logic
Week 9	Categorical Syllogisms; Venn Diagrams
Week 10	Inductive Arguments, sampling/population fallacies (post hoc, causal, slippery slope, etc.)
Week 11	Correlation & Cause; causal reasoning; other fallacies
Week 12	Nature & Function of analogies; fallacies (slippery assimilation, fallacy of two wrongs, etc.)

Week 13                    Evaluating Arguments in Media

Week 14                    **FINAL EXAM**

### NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)