

Effective Semester: Spring 2024

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Title:** Critical Thinking

**Course Number:** PHIL 101

**Credits:** 3

**Total Weeks:** 14 (Fall, Spring)  
12 (Summer)

**Total Hours:** 39

**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 understanding the structures and components underlying arguments, reasoning and claims. The course will also examine the strategies and techniques used in the reasoning process, both sound and fallacious, while paying close attention to how these manifest in our everyday life. Although this course will touch upon the foundation of formal logic, moral reasoning, scientific reasoning, legal reasoning, and other modes of reasoning will be used as examples to illustrate the successful and erroneous use of reasoning.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Evaluate arguments in both academic and 'every day' applications
- Utilize the philosophical method in an interdisciplinary way
- Explain various methods of critical reasoning and argumentation
- Formulate ideas in a discussion format regarding various issues while balancing open-mindedness and skepticism
- Recognize argumentative shortcomings and errors in reasoning

## 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: 20 % <i>2 In- Class Worksheets (5% each) In Class Debate (10%)</i>	Lab Work: %	Participation: 10% <i>Contribution to class discussion and in-class reflections</i>	Project: %
Quizzes/Test: 20% <i>4 mini quizzes at 5% each</i>	Midterm Exams: 25%	Final Exam: 25%	Other: %

## TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

This course will follow Chris Macdonald & Lewis Vaughn, *The Power of Critical Thinking*, 5th Canadian Editions, Oxford university Press, 2019.

## COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction; Syllabus, Intro to Critical Thinking & Reasoning and Skepticism
Week 2	Arguments in depth; Structure and components
Week 3	Arguments in depth continued & Belief and Doubt
Week 4	Errors in reasoning/fallacious arguments
Week 5	Deductive Reasoning 1; Categorical logic and diagramming syllogisms
Week 6	Deductive Reasoning 2; Foundational propositional logic and truth tables <b>Midterm Exam</b>
Week 7	Wrap Up Deductive Reasoning 2
Week 8	Inductive Reasoning 1; Enumerative, analogical and causal arguments and methods
Week 9	Inductive Reasoning 2; Inferences and what makes an explanation strong or weak
Week 10	Judging Scientific Theories
Week 11	<b>In Class Debates</b>
Week 12	Application of Critical Thinking; Health, Law and Ethics
Week 13	Final Exam Review
Week 14	<b>Final Exam</b>

**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)

**Last Reviewed:** March 2024

**Last Revised:** March 2024