

Effective Semester: Summer 2025

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:** Patrick 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 foundations 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. Students will critically examine the role of data, scientific experiments, and other forms of reasoning to develop their argumentation skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Evaluate arguments in both academic and 'every day' applications
- Assess the strength of data and evidence underlying arguments
- 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>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i> <i>2 In- Class Worksheets (5% each)</i> <i>In Class Debate (10%)</i>	Lab Work: %	Participation: 10% <i>Specify nature of participation:</i> <i>Contribution to class discussion and in-class reflections</i>	Project: % <i>Specify nature of project:</i>
Quizzes/Test: 30% <i>3 Section Tests at 10% Each</i>	Midterm Exam: 20%	Final Exam: 20%	Other: %

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

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

Chris MacDonald & Lewis Vaughn, *The Power of Critical Thinking*, 5th Canadian Edition, Oxford University Press 2019

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction. Syllabus. What is Critical Thinking?
Week 2	Reasons for Belief and Doubt
Week 3	Arguments in Depth: The Types of Arguments and Diagramming Arguments
Week 4	Errors in Reasoning and Fallacious Arguments
Week 5	Deductive Reasoning 1; Categorical Logic and Diagramming Syllogisms
Week 6	Deductive Reasoning 2; Foundational Propositional Logic and Truth Tables
Week 7	Inductive Reasoning 1; Enumerative, analogical and causal arguments and methods. Midterm Exam
Week 8	Inductive Reasoning 2; Inferences and what makes an explanation strong or weak
Week 9	Judging and Evaluating Scientific Theories
Week 10	Contexts of Application 1: Health & Law
Week 11	In Class Debates
Week 12	Contexts of Application 2: Ethics & Social Movements
Week 13	Final Exam Review
Week 14	Final Exam

NOTES

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

Last Reviewed: January 2025

Last Revised: January 2025