

PHL 105: Critical Reasoning in Everyday Life
Spring 2015

Instructor: Matthew Katz
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Office: Anspach 244
Office Hours: M 4:45-5:45,
W 9-10, F 2-3, and by appt.

Course Description: The aim of this course is to introduce students to the study of arguments, as they appear in everyday life. As a result students will improve their ability to read carefully, think critically, and write clearly. Topics include the anatomy of arguments, their interpretation, reconstruction, and evaluation. Attention will be given to particular applications, such as scientific reasoning and moral reasoning.

Required Text: Hughes, W., J. Lavery, and K. Doran. (2010). *Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills*, 6th ed. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press.

Requirements:

Attendance: 5%
Homework: 10%
Three in-class exams: 20% each
Final Exam: 25%

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with CMU's Policy on Academic Integrity, which can be found at: http://academicsenate.cmich.edu/NonCad/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs, activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the office of Student Disability Services (Park Library 120, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), and then contact the professor as soon as possible.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Reading	Topics
1–4	Hughes, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6	Introduction to arguments, their parts and structure, interpretation, standard form, diagramming
5–8	Hughes, Chapters 5, 6, 9	Categorization by Structure (1): Deductive forms and fallacies, connectives, Venn diagrams
8–11	Hughes, Chapters 10	Categorization by Structure (2): Inductive forms and fallacies, incorporating new information
12–15	Hughes, Chapters 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12	Categorization by Content: vagueness, ambiguity, definitions causal reasoning, scientific reasoning, moral reasoning

Tentative Exam Schedule:

First Exam:	February 6 th
Second Exam:	March 6 th
Third Exam:	April 10 th
Final Exam:	May 4 th , 10am