

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Reasoning and Critical Thinking

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

1230A - 551

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Jonathan P. Marsh

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

We humans are, in the familiar ancient slogan, “rational animals”. Yet there are systematic problems with the way we reason – rooted in unconscious biases, fallacies, illusions, inconsistencies, misinformation and a multitude of intellectual vices.

The goal of this course is to help us get better at mitigating these cognitive shortcomings and, in turn, enhance our ability to reason. We pursue this aim with an eye towards forming more accurate beliefs and making better decisions.

Learning Outcomes:

1. categorize, diagram and assess arguments from virtually any discipline,
2. spot and, to some extent, mitigate common forms of human irrationality (e.g. biases, fallacies and inconsistencies),
3. look for good sources of information and distinguish these from bad sources,
4. employ various techniques and principles for rationally updating beliefs
5. construct intellectual rules or guidelines that improve thinking and decision-making

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be made available via OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
1. Unit 2.1 test	09/21/2023	10%
2. Gadfly Exercise (in Groups)	09/21/2023	10%
3. Active and Informed Participation	Weekly	20%
4. Rules Assignment	10/20/23	25%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
5. Exam	December Exam Period (Date: TBA)	35%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.