

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Reasoning and Critical Thinking

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

1230A - 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Bland

Instructor Email(s): sbland2@uwo.ca

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:

Through reasoning, and thinking more generally, we attempt to understand the past, anticipate the future, make rational decisions, and promote moral goods. But our thinking isn't flawless; it is subject to all kinds of systematic errors. Even worse, we don't often recognize when we're in error, or how we got there. Consequently, our errors often go uncorrected, and our views about such important topics as politics, ethics, economics, health, and happiness are distorted. The good news is that our views are predictably distorted, and therefore subject to correction. We can learn how to recognize and mitigate the sources of our mistakes. This is critical thinking. In this course, you will learn about some of the biases, illusions, and weaknesses that afflict human minds. These shortcomings affect how we evaluate arguments, reconstruct events, predict the future, make decisions, and moralize. Our principal aim will be to generate strategies for effectively minimizing the impact of these phenomena on our thinking, and the thinking of others, so that we are able to reach more accurate conclusions about the things that matter to us most.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Manifest an understanding of the concepts and techniques covered in this course, and an ability to apply them to evaluate and improve judgements and decisions.
2. Work cooperatively with your peers to reinforce the lessons in the course material and prepare to manifest your understanding in the context of the course's two exams.
3. Manage and satisfy your academic responsibilities by meeting deadlines, communicating effectively, attending lectures, and demonstrably engaging with course material.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There are no required readings for this course. A list of supplementary readings and videos is posted on OWL, under the 'Further Learning' tab. You are encouraged to engage these resources in an effort to deepen your understanding of the course material.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation Questions	Each class	25%
Study guide	October 26th	10%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Midterm exam	October 26th	20%
Study guide	December 4th	15%
Final exam	TBD	30%

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