

Rutgers University
PHIL 730:101:01 Logic, Reasoning, and Persuasion¹
Hybrid Course
Winter 2015

Time: On 12/23/2014; 12/29/2014; 12/30/2014; and 1/2/2015 we meet online (visit the course Sakai site for assignments on these dates). From 1/5/2015 to 1/16/2015 we meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in [Scott Hall Room 203](#); Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1/5/2015 to 1/16/2015 we meet online (visit the course Sakai site for assignments/quizzes on these dates).

Location (when in class): [Scott Hall Room 203](#)

Professor: [Christopher G. Weaver](#)

E-mail: [cgweaver\[at\]rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:cgweaver[at]rci.rutgers.edu) (Emails to any other address will be ignored.)

Office Hours: Every Tuesday we meet in class at 4:00pm at the Rutgers University Philosophy Department 106 Somerset St. New Brunswick, NJ 08901, 5th Floor, Office 510.

I. Course Description

This course aims to transform undergraduates into highly effective critical thinkers able to recognize, summarize, paraphrase, diagram, and evaluate arguments. The course will also provide students with the tools to draft persuasive arguments.

II. Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn what arguments are.
2. Students will learn various techniques for paraphrasing arguments.
3. Students will learn various techniques for diagramming arguments.
4. Students will learn various techniques for evaluating arguments.
5. Students will learn how to recognize arguments.
6. Students will learn various techniques for drafting persuasive arguments.
7. Students will engage a significant work of scholarship with the tools and techniques learned over the course of the session thereby sharpening their critical thinking skills.

III. General Approach

On designated quiz days (see the schedule below), on Sakai, I will administer a quiz over the assigned reading material, as well as material presented during previous lectures. Reading assignments listed in the class schedule will be announced on Sakai. Homework reading assignments from Parfit are detailed in the course schedule below. Should you have any difficulty with these quizzes, it is your responsibility to contact the Sakai help desk at sakai@rutgers.edu (phone: (848) 445-8721). It is your responsibility to ensure that your material is submitted correctly. The lectures will all be supplemented with lecture notes which I will make available in the resources section of the course Sakai site.

IV. Textbook

The required textbooks for this course are:

¹ The Instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he deems that a change is necessary.

1. Irving M. Copi and Carl Cohen, and Kenneth McMahon, *Introduction to Logic* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, **14th Edition**. 2010). ISBN: 0205820379
2. Derek Parfit, *On What Matters*. Volume One (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN: 9780199572809

V. Assignments and Grading

Preparation and Class Attendance

10%

You are expected to read all of the assigned material. You are also expected to ask questions during the lectures and participate in in-class activities. **Missing more than one class will affect your grade (if you are tardy three times, that will count as one absence. Leaving class early will count as one tardy).** It is your responsibility to keep up with any work you miss. Class participation grades will also be affected if disrespect is shown to others.

Quizzes

30%

Quizzes will be administered through Sakai (see the above comments regarding technical difficulties and contacting the Sakai help desk).

Mid-term Assignment

30%

You will be asked to perform various exercises for an assignment, the purpose of which is to ensure that you have learned how to recognize, diagram, summarize, paraphrase, and evaluate arguments. This assignment will be posted on Sakai on **1/7/2015**.

Final Exam

30%

You must evaluate a short portion of Derek Parfit's, *On What Matters*, following the directions provided for you on the exam. The exam will be made available on **1/16/2015** on Sakai and your evaluation should be returned via email (in PDF format) by **1/20/2015 1pm**.

VI. Schedule for the Winter Session

Part 1: Logic and Reason: Learning How to Think Critically

1 (Tuesday, December 23rd): The Nature of Arguments (**Quiz Today**)

Homework: Reading Assignment #1. (Due December 26th)

2 (Friday, December 26th): Diagraming, Summarizing, and Paraphrasing Arguments (**Quiz Today**)

Homework: Reading Assignment #2 (Due January 2nd)

3 (Friday, January 2nd): Recognizing Arguments (**Quiz Today**)

Homework: Reading Assignment #3. (Due January 5th)

4 (Monday, January 5th): Arguments and Explanations; Complex Argumentative Passages (**Quiz Today**)

Homework: Reading Assignment #4. (Due January 6th)

5 (Tuesday, January 6th): Problems in Reasoning; Functions of Language

Homework: Reading Assignment #5. (Due January 7th)

6 (Wednesday, January 7th): Discourse Serving Multiple Functions (**Quiz Today**)
Homework: Reading Assignment #6. (Due January 8th)

7 (Thursday, January 8th): Agreement and Disagreement in Attitude and Belief; Definitions; Fallacies
Homework: Reading Assignment #7. (Due January 9th)

8 (Friday, January 9th): Analogical Reasoning and Causal Reasoning (**Quiz Today**)
Homework: Reading Assignment #8. (Due January 12th)

Part 2: Applying your Critical Thinking Skills

9 (Monday, January 12th): Practicing Critical Thinking: Reading *On What Matters* Vol.1 (**Quiz Today**) Homework: Read Parfit pp. 31-57 (Due January 13th)

10 (Tuesday, January 13th): Practicing Critical Thinking: Reading *On What Matters* Vol.1
Homework: Read Parfit pp. 58-82. (Due January 14th)

11 (Wednesday, January 14th): Practicing Critical Thinking: Reading *On What Matters* Vol.1 (**Quiz Today**) Homework: Read Parfit pp. 83-110. (Due January 15th)

12 (Thursday, January 15th): Practicing Critical Thinking: Reading *On What Matters* Vol.1
Homework: Read Parfit pp. 111-129. (Due January 16th)

13 (Friday, January 16th): Practicing Critical Thinking: Reading *On What Matters* Vol.1 (**Quiz Today**) Homework: Read Parfit pp. 130-174. (Due January 17th (part of Final Exam assignment))

VII. Current Academic Integrity Policy

To view the current academic integrity policy, visit the link [here](#).

VIII. Self-Reporting Absence Application:

“Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me [the instructor].”