

Fall 2015

Logic and Reasoning
PHL 130, sec. 3

Professor: Lisa H. Schwartzman
Office: 500 South Kedzie Hall (My office is inside the main office of the Philosophy Dept., 503 S. Kedzie. If the main office door is closed, knock loudly and I'll let you in—my door is just inside the main office, to the left)
Office Hours: Mondays, 12:15 – 2:15 p.m. and by appointment
Phone: 353-9391 (office); 355-4490 (dept.)
E-mail: LHSchwar@msu.edu
Class Meetings: Mon. and Weds. 3:00 – 4:20, 105 Bessey Hall

Course Aims and Purposes

The primary aim of this course is to develop critical reasoning skills that will be useful not only in philosophy, but also in other disciplines and in everyday life. The course will teach you how to identify, evaluate, and construct arguments, and it will alert you to common problems in reasoning. You will also learn a variety of methods for assessing arguments. The training you receive in this course should help you to become a more sensitive critic of a variety of sources that you encounter on a daily basis—books and articles that you read in other courses, stories you hear on the news, claims made by various sources on the internet, and even statements made by your friends and family.

Required Text (available at the Student Book Store, on Grand River in E. Lansing)

Moore and Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 11th Edition (New York: McGraw Hill, 2015).

Grading

Exam 1 (Weds. Oct. 7)	30 %
Exam 2 (Weds. Nov. 4)	30 %
Exam 3 (Weds. Dec. 9)	30 %
Homework (3 sets total)	10 %

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Exams: There will be three equally-weighted exams (and no final exam). Each exam will focus primarily on the material covered since the previous exam, though there will be some overlap—that is, some concepts and techniques will continue to be relevant in subsequent sections.

Homework: There will be three homework sets due periodically throughout the semester (see schedule below for due dates). Homework must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Late homeworks will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances, such as illness or emergency situations, which must be documented. Homework assignments must be typed and all problems clearly labeled.

Attendance and Class Participation: Although this is a large course, I welcome comments, questions, and active participation in class. I will lecture for part of each class, but we will also be

going over various problems, from the book and from the assigned homework. It is to your advantage to attend class regularly and to ask questions when something confuses you. If you find something to be difficult or confusing, chances are that others do too and that your questions will be useful in guiding our discussion of the material.

I do not take attendance, but I expect that students will attend all class meetings. If you miss class, please contact a classmate to find out what (if any) homework problems were assigned on that day and what (if any) changes were made to the scheduled reading assignment.

Grading Scale: Homework and exams will be graded on a 100-point scale. Your final grade will also be figured on a 100-point scale, and it will then be converted to a 4.0 scale (at the end of the semester) in the following manner:

90-100	4.0
85-89	3.5
80-84	3.0
75-79	2.5
70-74	2.0
65-69	1.5
60-64	1.0
0-59	0.0

Other Important Information:

You must be present in class on exam days. There will be no make-up exams except in unusual circumstances, which must be documented, and where the student makes arrangements with me in advance, whenever possible.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for People with Disabilities [353-9642 or 355-1293(TTY)] at the beginning of the semester to develop reasonable accommodations. Please notify me if you have any special requirements or needs of which I should be aware.

Course Schedule

As the semester progresses, I may make some minor changes in this schedule; these will be announced in class. You should complete the reading assignment before class on the day for which the reading is scheduled, and you should always bring the textbook with you to class.

W	9/2	Introduction to course
M	9/7	No Class - Labor Day
W	9/9	Chapter 1, What <i>Is</i> Critical Thinking, Anyway?
M	9/14	Chapter 2, Two Kinds of Reasoning
W	9/16	Chapter 3, Clear Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Clear Writing
M	9/21	Chapter 5, Rhetoric, the Art of Persuasion
W	9/23	Chapter 6, Relevance (Red Herring) Fallacies

- M 9/28 **Homework (set 1) Due**
Chapter 7, Relevance (Red Herring) Fallacies
- W 9/30 **No Class – Reading Day**
- M 10/5 Catch-up (no new readings)
- W 10/7 **EXAM # 1**
- M 10/12 Chapter 8, Formal Fallacies and Fallacies of Language
- W 10/14 Chapter 9, Deductive Arguments I: Categorical Logic
- M 10/19 Chapter 9, cont'd
- W 10/21 Chapter 9, cont'd
- M 10/26 Chapter 9, cont'd
- W 10/28 **Homework (set 2) Due**
Chapter 9, cont'd
- M 11/2 Chapter 10, Deductive Arguments II: Truth-Functional Logic
- W 11/4 **EXAM # 2**
- M 11/9 Chapter 10, cont'd
- W 11/11 Chapter 10, cont'd
- M 11/16 Chapter 10, cont'd
- W 11/18 Chapter 10, cont'd
- M 11/23 Chapter 11, Inductive Reasoning
- W 11/25 **No Class – Reading Day**
- M 11/30 **Homework (set 3) Due**
Chapter 11, cont'd
- W 12/2 Chapter 12, Moral, Legal, and Aesthetic Reasoning
- M 12/7 Chapter 12, cont'd
- W 12/9 **EXAM # 3**

There will be no final exam for this class (Weds, Dec. 9 is our last class meeting.)