

PHIL 1230 REASONING AND CRITICAL THINKING(3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

Required Text:

Brooke Noel Moore (2021). *Critical Thinking* (13th ed.). McGraw-Hill Higher Education
Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

Course Description

Reasoning and Critical Thinking is a course designed to help students develop the essential skills of logical reasoning and critical thinking. Students will learn how to analyze and evaluate arguments, distinguish between valid and invalid reasoning, and identify common fallacies. The course will cover topics such as deductive and inductive argument, logical structures, evaluation of arguments, and the scientific method, etc. Through readings, discussions, and assignments, students will develop their ability and acquire practical techniques to think critically, communicate effectively, and make sound judgments.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Develop an understanding of the basic principles of reasoning and critical thinking, including deductive and inductive reasoning, fallacies, and the scientific method.
- Understand the differences between deductive and inductive arguments and be able to recognize and apply different argument types and logical structures.
- Know how to analyze and evaluate arguments, distinguish between valid and invalid reasoning, and identify common fallacies.
- Enhance analytical and problem-solving skills through the application of reasoning and critical thinking to everyday life situations, social media and academic contexts.

Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

Class Participation	10%
Writing Assignments	40%
Reading research	20%
Exams	30%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% and above	B- 80 - 82%	D+ 67 - 69%
A- 90 - 92%	C+ 77 - 79%	D 63 - 66%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 73 - 76%	D- 60 - 62%
B 83 - 86%	C- 70 - 72%	F 59% or below

Withdrawal Policy: Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

Student Responsibility:

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks & Evaluations</u>
Introduction to Reasoning and Critical Thinking	Chapter 1	
Premises and Conclusions Deductive Arguments & Inductive Arguments Techniques For Understanding Arguments	Chapter 2	Writing A1
Logic Structure and Critical Thinking	Chapter 3	
Vagueness Ambiguity: Semantic Ambiguity; Grouping Ambiguity; Syntactic Ambiguity Generality	Chapter 3	
Defining Terms: Purposes Of Definitions; Kinds Of Definitions; Tips On Definitions Writing Argumentative Essays: Good Writing Practices; Essay Types To Avoid; Persuasive Writing; Writing In a Diverse Society	Chapter 3	
Credibility The Believability of Claims The Credibility of Sources The News Advertising	Chapter 4	
Rhetoric, the Art of Persuasion	Chapter 5	
Rhetorical Force; Rhetorical Devices Proof Surrogates And Repetition	Chapter 5	Exam 1
Common Fallacies: Argumentum AD Hominem; Straw Man; False Dilemma	Chapter 6	
Misplacing the Burden of Proof; Begging the Question; Appeal to Emotion; Appeal to Pity	Chapter 6	

Forms of Fallacious Reasoning Induction Fallacies; Generalization; Weak analog; Mistaken Appeal to Authority; Mistaken Appeal to Popularity; Fallacies Related to Cause and Effect	Chapter 7	Writing A2
Formal Fallacies and Fallacies of Language The Fallacies Of Equivocation And Amphiboly The Fallacies Of Composition And Division Confusing Contraries And Contradictories Consistency And Inconsistency Miscalculating Probabilities	Chapter 8	Writing A3 Exam 2
Valid and Invalid Reasoning and Arguments	Chapter 9	
Deductive Arguments: Categorical Logic Categorical Claims; Translation into Standard Form; The Square of Opposition; Three Categorical Relations; Categorical Syllogisms	Chapter 9	
Truth Tables and Logical Symbols; Symbolizing Compound Claims; Truth-Functional Argument Patterns; Deductions	Chapter 10	Writing A4
Inductive Reasoning: Argument From Analogy; Generalizing From A Sample; Scientific Generalizing From A Sample; Causal Statements And Their Support; Calculating Statistical Probabilities	Chapter 11	
Moral, Legal, and Aesthetic Reasoning: Value Judgments; Major Perspectives in Moral Reasoning; Moral Deliberation; Legal Reasoning; Aesthetic Reasoning	Chapter 12	Exam 3
Scientific Methods: Evaluation of Arguments	Chapter 13	Reading research