

CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	PHIL 120	Course Title	Critical Thinking			
Credit Value	3	Department	Humanities			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	This course is a survey of skills for good reasoning, including argument analysis, basic logic and probability, and scientific methodology. It covers a wide range of real and imaginary examples from everyday life and from science. The overall purpose of the course is to equip students to think critically about evidence. Evidence given in support of a conclusion is an argument, so the course focuses on the reconstruction and evaluation of different kinds of arguments. It also covers hypothesis testing, and the design and interpretation of experiments.					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 099					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	PHIL 120 (3)	PHIL 105 (Q) (3)	PHIL 201 (1.5)	PHIL 200 (3)	PHIL 1110 (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze (reconstruct and evaluate) basic deductive arguments. • Formulate counter-examples and write objections as arguments. • Analyze (reconstruct and evaluate) inductive arguments: analogical, statistical, and causal. • Discuss and evaluate examples of scientific reasoning: inference to the best explanation, confirmation, and experiments. • Apply rules of probability to test hypotheses. • Recognize and criticize informal fallacies. 					
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argument reconstruction and evaluation • Induction & Deduction • Reasoning about probability • Principals of experimental design • Informal fallacies <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor.</p>					
Methods of Instruction	Lecture, class discussion, small in-class projects completed individually or in groups. Practice and exercises based on lecture and course text.					



Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Baggini, Julian, and Peter S. Fosl. <i>The Philosopher's Toolkit: A Compendium of Philosophical Concepts and Methods</i>. Wiley/Blackwell Publishers</p> <p>Bennett, Deborah J. <i>Logic Made Easy: How to Know When Language Deceives You</i>. W.W Norton and Co.</p> <p>Feldman, Richard. <i>Reason and Argument</i>. Prentice-Hall.</p> <p>Groarke, Leo, and Christopher W. Tindale. <i>Good Reasoning Matters! A Constructive Approach to Critical Thinking</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Halpern, Joseph Y. <i>Reasoning About Uncertainty</i>. MIT Press.</p> <p>Salmon, Merrilee H. <i>Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking</i>. Wadsworth.</p> <p>Toulmin, Stephen Edelston. <i>The Uses of Argument</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Teays, Wanda. <i>Second Thoughts: Critical Thinking for a Diverse Society</i>. McGraw-Hill.</p> <p>Vaughn, Lewis, and Chris MacDonald. <i>The Power of Critical Thinking</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Woods, John, Andrew David Irvine and Douglas Walton. <i>Argument</i>. Pearson.</p>		
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 		
Homework Hours	<p>At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.</p>		
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>	
	Quizzes and midterms	20-50%	
	Short assignments	0-20%	
	Participation	0-10%	
Final examination	30-50%		
Completion Requirements	<p>The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.</p>		
Course Designer(s)	Norman Swartz, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University	Consultant(s), <i>if applicable</i>	Jillian McIntosh, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Simon Fraser University
Dean's Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean's Approval Date	September 27, 2006
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	September 27, 2006	First Term Offered	Fall 2008



Last Review Date	August 5, 2025	Next Review Date	August 5, 2030
Revision History	<p>August 23, 2006: Articulation target for SFU changed from PHIL 1XX to PHIL 110.</p> <p>February 1, 2016: Library resources updated by Jill McIntosh.</p> <p>January 24, 2020: Revisions made by Sebastian Huebel, Department Head in consultation with Jill McIntosh and Lyle Crawford (updates and corrections to articulation targets. Revision of course description and learning outcomes).</p> <p>September 1, 2024 – English prerequisite increased to ENGL 099, effective Fall 2024.</p> <p>August 5, 2025 – Reviewed by Jill McIntosh, no changes made.</p>		