

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-110-Logic and Critical Thinking

CLASS SECTION: D04

TERM: 2024F

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Online asynchronous

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Anthony J. Gavin

EMAIL: GavinA@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Y312

HOURS: Thursdays, 10:30am – 12pm

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines logical fallacies and issues such as distinctions between belief and attitude, objective and subjective, truth and validity. Real-life issues will be emphasized. In all cases the key question will be, have I been given good reasons for accepting a belief?

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of arguments effectively.
- Write and reason with clarity and precision.
- Detect bias and fallacious reasoning in arguments.
- Apply basic logical principles to the evaluation of evidence and the conducting of inquiry.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Textbook: MacDonald, Chris and Vaughn, Lewis. (2023) *The Power of Critical Thinking*. 6th Canadian Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | OTHER NOTES |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Week 1: Sept. 03 – 06 | <i>Topic: The Power of Critical Thinking</i> Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 1 – The Power of Critical Thinking, pp. 2-20 Practice exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises 1.1 – 1.7 | |
| Week 2: Sept. 09 – 13 | <i>Topic: The “Environment” of Critical Thinking</i> Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 2 – The “Environment” of Critical Thinking, pp. 33-50 Practice exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises 2.1 – 2.5 | |
| Week 3: Sept. 16 – 20 | <i>Topic: Making Sense of Arguments</i> Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 3 – Making Sense of Arguments, pp. 61-107 Practice exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises 3.1 – 3.7 | |
| Week 4: Sept. 23 – 27 | <i>Topic: Reasons for Belief and Doubt</i> Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 4 – Reasons for Belief and Doubt, pp. 116-153 Practice exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises 4.1 – 4.3 | |
| Week 5: Sept. 30 – Oct. 04 | <i>Topic: Faulty Reasoning</i> Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 5 – Faulty Reasoning, pp. 165-188 Practice exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exercises 5.1 – 5.3 | Assignment #1 due |

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | OTHER NOTES |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Week 6: Oct. 07 – 11 | <p><i>Topic: Faulty Reasoning, cont'd / Midterm Review</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5 – Faulty Reasoning, pp. 165-188 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 5.1 – 5.3 | Midterm review slides posted on D2L |
| Week 7: Oct. 14 – 18 | <p>MIDTERM EXAM (available Oct. 14 – 18)</p> | |
| Week 8: Oct. 21 – 25 | <p><i>Topic: Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 6 – Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic, pp. 202-230 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 6.1 – 6.8 | Assignment #2 due |
| Week 9: Oct. 28 – Nov. 01 | <p><i>Topic: Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 – Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic, pp. 235-262 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 7.1 – 7.10 | |
| Week 10: Nov. 04 – 08 | <p><i>Topic: Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic, cont'd</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 7 – Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic, pp. 235-262 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 7.1 – 7.10 | |
| Week 11: Nov. 11 – 15 | <p><i>Topic: Inductive Reasoning</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 – Inductive Reasoning, pp. 269-320 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 8.1 – 8.12 | Assignment #3 due |
| Week 12: Nov. 18 – 22 | <p><i>Topic: Inference to the Best Explanation</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9 – Inference to the Best Explanation, pp. 328-367 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 9.1 – 9.10 | |

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | OTHER NOTES |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Week 13: Nov. 25 – 29 | <p><i>Topic: Judging Scientific Theories</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10 – Judging Scientific Theories, pp. 372-406 <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises 10.1 – 10.9 | Assignment #4 due |
| Week 14: Dec. 02 – 06 | <p><i>Topic: Final Exam Review</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A <p>Practice exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A | <i>Final Exam review slides posted on D2L</i> |
| Exam period: Dec. 09 – 17 | FINAL EXAM (available Dec. 09 – 13) | |

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](#).

<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

| DESCRIPTION | WEIGHTING |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Assignments (4 x 10% = 40%) | 40% |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. Course Delivery and Attendance

This is an *asynchronous* online course. This means that there are no set times of day when you need to watch lecture videos or complete your assigned work. There are still regular deadlines for completing assignments, so you will be expected to keep up with what we are covering in any given week. To help keep you on track, below is a suggested weekly schedule.

Suggested weekly schedule:

| Day(s) | Tasks |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday | Read assigned materials and watch course videos. Slow down and review as needed. Schedule office hours appointment if needed. |
| Tuesday | Read assigned materials and watch course videos. Begin to work on exercise problems. Work on assignments as needed. Schedule office hours appointment if needed. |
| Wednesday | Review week's materials and continue to work on exercise problems. Work on assignments as needed. |
| Thursday – Friday | Review week's materials and continue to work on exercise problems. Work on next week's assignments. |

The course schedule at the end of this document lists the topics for each week and the relevant readings from the textbook. All of my course videos will be available on the course website prior to the start of the day when the material is covered.

2. Academic Integrity

You are welcome and encouraged to discuss course material with others in your class. However, I expect that all work you submit will be your own. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your achievement of the learning objectives in this course. *I specifically forbid the use of ChatGPT or any other generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools at all stages of the work process, including brainstorming.* Deviations from these guidelines will be considered violations of Camosun's Academic Integrity policy. A first-time offence will result in an automatic grade of zero being given on the assignment in question. Multiple infractions may incur graver penalties, up to and including academic probation and/or expulsion.

If you are ever unsure about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please ask me, or consult the college's Academic Integrity Policy (available at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>).

3. Communication and Office Hours

Email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 2 working days. If you don't hear back from me after that time, please feel free to try me again, in case your message went astray. When you address me (over email or otherwise), please do so as either Professor (Prof.) Gavin, or Anthony.

If you are ever nervous about sending me an email, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether I'll be able to help with your request, but it does provide a nice icebreaker.

I will be available for office hours, either in-person or remotely, on Thursdays from 10:30am – 12pm. Priority will be given to students with scheduled appointments, but drop-ins are also welcome. If you plan to attend remotely, please email me first, so that I can send you a Zoom link. As for in-person appointments, my office is located in the Young Building, Room 312.

Finally, my pronouns are he/him/his. If you think I am unlikely to know the name you would prefer to be called, or the pronouns that I should use for you through the entry that I will see for you on D2L and your college registration, please don't hesitate to make me aware.

4. Basis of Evaluation

(a) Assignments (4 x 10% each = 40%)

There will be 4 assignments based on what has been discussed in lecture. Each assignment contains a mix of multiple choice and true or false questions. Assignments can be found under the "Quizzes" tab on D2L. There are no rewrites or deferrals on assignments.

Once you start working on an assignment, you are free to open and close the assignment window for as long as the assignment is available. However, once you submit the assignment, you will no longer be able to change your answers. You may only submit a single attempt, so be sure to review your answers carefully before you hit "Submit"!

Assignment #1: available Sept. 09 – Oct. 30

Assignment #2: available Oct. 21 – 25

Assignment #3: available Nov. 11 – 15

Assignment #4: available Nov. 25 – 29

(b) Midterm (30%)

Available on D2L from Oct. 14 – 18 (under "Quizzes")

The midterm contains three sections: multiple choice, true or false, and chapter knowledge questions. For the first two sections, simply choose the answer that you think is most correct. For the last section, you must provide a written answer to each question (2-3 sentences will do).

You will have one hour from the time that you start the midterm to complete it. After that, your midterm will be marked as a late submission. There is a 5 minute grace period for late submissions, but after that you will be penalized 5% for each 5 additional minutes that you take.

The midterm is open book, but do be conscious that you might have difficulty finishing on time if you lean too heavily on the textbook.

(c) Final Exam (30%)

Available on D2L from Dec. 09 – 13 (under "Quizzes")

The format for the final is identical to the midterm, except that you will have two hours to finish.

Both the midterm and the final are cumulative exams.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

School of Arts & Science

Camosun College Lansdowne
School of Arts & Science | Fisher 104
3100 Foul Bay Rd
Victoria BC V8P 5J2

Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

General inquiries

Phone: 250-370-3298

Email: artsci@camosun.ca

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

| Support Service | Website |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Academic Advising | camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising |
| Accessible Learning | camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning |
| Counselling | camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre |
| Career Services | camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services |
| Financial Aid and Awards | camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards |
| Help Centres (Math/English/Science) | camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres |
| Indigenous Student Support | camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services |
| International Student Support | camosun.ca/international |
| Learning Skills | camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills |

| Support Service | Website |
|---------------------------|---|
| Library | camosun.ca/services/library |
| Office of Student Support | camosun.ca/services/office-student-support |
| Ombudsperson | camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson |
| Registration | camosun.ca/registration-records/registration |
| Technology Support | camosun.ca/services/its |
| Writing Centre | camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills |

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit

<https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.