



School of Arts & Science
 HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
 PHIL 110-003
 Introduction to Philosophy
 WINTER 2011

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/phil.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.
 It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.
 You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Megan Shelstad		
(b)	Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:00 am		
(c)	Location:	Young 312		
(d)	Phone:	370-3950	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	shelstad@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify structural weaknesses in arguments
2. Recognize fallacious reasoning patterns and invalid argument forms
3. Detect biases and hidden assumptions in statements
4. Present two sides of a case in a fair manner), critically evaluate each side, and then provide justification for conclusions.
5. Construct logical and convincing arguments.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: Vaughn, L. and MacDonald, C. 2010. *The Power of Critical Thinking*. 2nd Canadian edition. OUP.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays – 8:30 – 9:20 a.m. Wilna Thomas 102

Seminars: Group A: Mondays -- 9:30 -- 10:20 a.m., Group B: Wednesdays -- 9:30 -- 10:20 a.m. Wilna Thomas 102

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

- (a) Assignments: 20% - presentation/group assignment (propaganda speech, 4 double-spaced typed pages)
- (b) Quizzes: 10% - 6 quizzes (2% each, best 5, no make-ups)
- (c) Exams: 25% - midterm test
 30% - final test (CUMULATIVE)
- (d) Other: 15% - Seminar attendance and participation

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete</i> : A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress</i> : A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal</i> : A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

READING ASSIGNMENTS (to be done BEFORE class)
*****BRING TEXTBOOKS TO CLASS*****
schedule subject to change if needed

The power of critical thinking (Chapter 1)

January 10, 12 – Introduction, good critical thinking, obstacles to good critical thinking
Seminar: facts and opinions

The 'environment' of critical thinking (Chapter 2)

January 17, 19 – Reasons and arguments, worldviews, the self and the group, **QUIZ 1 (Wed.)**
Seminar: inflammatory language

Making sense of arguments (Chapter 3)

January 24, 26 – Inductive and deductive arguments, **QUIZ 2 (Wed.)**
Seminar: experiment on conditional reasoning

January 31, February 2 – Arguments, **QUIZ 3 (Wed.)**
Seminar: Sherlock Holmes exercise

February 7 -- loose ends and review, ** **FEBRUARY 9 – TEST****, no seminar

Reasons for belief and doubt (Chapter 4)

February 14, 16 – Experts, experience and evidence
Seminar: "The ethics of belief" - William Clifford exercise

February 21, 23 -- News, advertising, and persuasion
Seminar: propaganda

Faulty reasoning (Chapter 5)

February 28, March 2 -- Irrelevant premises
Seminar: "isms" groups (Animal Farm)

March 7, 9 -- Unacceptable premises, **QUIZ 4 (Wed.)**
Seminar: "isms" groups

March 14 – **GROUP A ONLY - PRESENTATIONS**

March 16 – **GROUP B ONLY - PRESENTATIONS**

Deductive reasoning: propositional logic (Chapter 6)

March 21, 23 -- truth and validity, truth tables, **QUIZ 5 (Wed.)**

Seminar: Sherlock Holmes revisited

March 28, 30 – deduction cont'd, induction

Seminar: exercise

Inductive reasoning (Chapter 8)

April 4, 6 – statistics, analogies, cause and effect, **QUIZ 6 (Wed.)**

Seminar: exercise

April 11, 13 – reasoning about the future and the past, review

Seminar: ?

****FINAL CUMULATIVE EXAM IN EXAM PERIOD****

BRAINTEASERS

1. A toy puck and a hockey stick cost \$1.10 in total. The stick costs \$1 more than the puck. How much does the puck cost?

2. If it takes five machines five minutes to make five widgets, how long would it take 100 machines to make 100 widgets?

3. There are three toy blocks stacked up. The top one is green and the bottom one is red. Is there a green block directly on top of a non-green one? a) yes b) no or c) cannot be determined.