

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-110: Logic and Critical Thinking

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Fall 2021

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Anthony J. Gavin

EMAIL: GavinA@camosun.bc.ca

OFFICE: Young 312

HOURS: Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 – 12:30am (online via Zoom or in-person)

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):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

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

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Textbook: Vaughn, Lewis and MacDonald, Chris. (2019) *The Power of Critical Thinking*. 5th Canadian Edition. Oxford University Press.

Additional resources will be made available on D2L.

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 |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 7 – 10 | Ch. 1: The Power of Critical Thinking (pp. 2-20) Exercises 1.1 – 1.7 | |
| Sept. 13 – 17 | Ch. 2: The “Environment” of Critical Thinking (pp. 33-50) Exercises 2.1 – 2.5 | |
| Sept. 20 – 24 | Ch. 3: Making Sense of Arguments (pp. 63-110) Exercises 3.1 – 3.7 | |
| Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 | Ch. 3: Making Sense of Arguments, cont’d Exercises 3.1 – 3.7 | NO CLASS OR SEMINAR Thursday, Sept. 30 (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) |

| WEEK or DATE RANGE | ACTIVITY or TOPIC | OTHER NOTES |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 4 – 8 | Ch. 4: Reasons for Belief and Doubt (pp. 122-159) Exercises 4.1 – 4.3 | Assignment #1 due Thursday, Oct. 7 |
| Oct. 11 – 15 | Ch. 5: Faulty Reasoning (pp. 174-197) Exercises 5.1 – 5.3 | |
| Oct. 18 – 22 | Ch. 5: Faulty Reasoning, cont'd / Midterm Exercises 5.1 – 5.3 | MIDTERM Thursday, Oct. 21 |
| Oct. 25 – 29 | Ch. 6: Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic (pp. 214-242) / Midterm Review Exercises 6.1 – 6.8 | |
| Nov. 1 – 5 | Ch. 6: Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic, cont'd Exercises 6.1 – 6.8 | Assignment #2 due Thursday, Nov. 4 |
| Nov. 8 – 12 | Ch. 7: Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic (pp. 248-276) Exercises 7.1 – 7.10 | NO CLASS OR SEMINAR Thursday, Nov. 11 (Remembrance Day) |
| Nov. 15 – 19 | Ch. 7: Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic, cont'd Exercises 7.1 – 7.10 | Assignment #3 due Thursday, Nov. 18 |
| Nov. 22 – 26 | Ch. 8: Inductive Reasoning (pp. 284-335) Exercises 8.1 – 8.12 | |
| Nov. 29 – Dec. 3 | Ch. 9: Inference to the Best Explanation (pp. 344-384) Exercises 9.1 – 9.10 | Assignment #4 due Thursday, Dec. 2 |
| Dec. 6 – 10 | Ch. 10: Judging Scientific Theories (pp. 390-424) Exercises 10.1 – 10.9 | |
| Dec. 13 – 21 | Final Exam Period | FINAL EXAM TBD |

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 notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

| DESCRIPTION | WEIGHTING |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Assignments (4 x 10%) | 40% |
| Midterm | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Participation | 10% |
| | 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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. COVID-19 Guidelines

There are a number of important policies to keep in mind as we return to in-person teaching. Due to COVID-19, **masks are mandatory in class**. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Also, **no food or drink** are allowed in the classroom. If you need to grab a quick snack or sip of water, please excuse yourself from class. It may be necessary to accommodate short breaks in the middle of class for this purpose. Speaking as your professor, it's quite difficult to lecture for an hour straight without taking a sip of water! Your diligence in respecting these guidelines is warmly appreciated.

For up-to-date information on the college's COVID-19 guidelines, please use the following link: <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

2. Course Delivery and Attendance

As soon as class begins on September 7th, you will have access to the course website on **D2L**. All of your assigned work and quizzes will be submitted through D2L. Supplementary lecture materials will also be posted on D2L each week. Note that these supplementary lecture materials are not a substitute for the main lecture portion of the course. *You are still expected to attend class in-person.*

Students are expected to attend two lectures and one seminar in-person each week. Seminar sections have been assigned to you: Group A meets after class on Tuesdays, and Group B meets after class on Thursdays. These seminars are intended for us to work together on problems from the week's reading materials. Students are also encouraged to show up with their own questions. *Please ensure that you are caught up on the readings prior to showing up to each seminar.*

It is very important to attend the first class. Failure to do so will result in your being automatically dropped from the course. Students on the waitlist are also welcome to attend during the first week. I will take attendance for students on both lists during the first week, but not any further beyond that. This only applies to the lecture portion of the course; rules for seminar attendance are outlined below. If for any reason you are unable to attend during the first week, please let me know as soon as possible.

3. Basis of Evaluation

Your **participation** grade is dependent on seminar attendance: students are expected to attend at least 10 seminars (out of a possible 14), valued at 1% each, for a total of 10% of your final grade. I recognize that there are multiple ways to participate in a course, and that we are not always up to speed 100% of the time that we're physically present. Therefore, participation grades are subject to a final adjustment before final grades are released.

There will be 4 **assignments** (4 x 10%) based on what has been discussed in lecture. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Further details will be provided on D2L and in lecture.

Assignment #1: **Due Thursday, Oct. 7**

Assignment #2: **Due Thursday, Nov. 4**

Assignment #3: **Due Thursday, Nov. 18**

Assignment #4: **Due Thursday, Dec. 2**

Lastly, you will have one **midterm** (25%) and one **final exam** (25%). Both the midterm and the final will be available on D2L. Further details will be provided on D2L and in lecture. No late submissions or deferrals.

Midterm: **Thursday, Oct. 21**

Final Exam: **TBD**

4. Academic Integrity

You are welcome and encouraged to discuss course material with others in your class, and work together to solve problems. However, the work you turn in must be your own. If you are ever unsure about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please consult the college's Academic Integrity Policy (available at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>).

5. Late Submissions and Extensions

Late work is penalized at 10% per day up to a maximum of 5 days, after which point it will no longer be accepted. However, I know that things do not always go according to plan. You are welcome to two day's worth of extensions on assignments (not the midterm/final). This means that you can take two extra days to complete a assignment, or have one extra day on two different assignments. *Please let me know before the due date if you are using an extension. Otherwise, your work will be counted as a late submission.*

6. 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 1 working day. If you don't hear back from me after that time frame, feel free to try again in case your message went astray. When you do 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, or asking a question, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether or not I will be able to help you with your request, but it does provide

a nice icebreaker. 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.

I will be available for office hours on Wednesdays and Fridays between 11:00am and 12:30am. Due to COVID-19, I ask that you schedule an appointment with me before attending office hours. My default platform for office hours will be Zoom, but in-person appointments are also available. My office is located in the Young Building, Room 312. If neither of these options works for you, please feel free to suggest an alternative. Appointments can be scheduled in 15 minute blocks. If you are working with a study group and would like to attend office hours as a group, simply designate one person to reserve the appointment and let me know who else will be attending. Group appointments are online-only.

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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Academic Advising | http://camosun.ca/advising |
| Accessible Learning | http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning |
| Counselling | http://camosun.ca/counselling |
| Career Services | http://camosun.ca/coop |
| Financial Aid and Awards | http://camosun.ca/financialaid |
| Help Centres (Math/English/Science) | http://camosun.ca/help-centres |
| Indigenous Student Support | http://camosun.ca/indigenous |
| International Student Support | http://camosun.ca/international/ |
| Learning Skills | http://camosun.ca/learningskills |
| Library | http://camosun.ca/services/library/ |
| Office of Student Support | http://camosun.ca/oss |
| Ombudsperson | http://camosun.ca/ombuds |
| Registration | http://camosun.ca/registration |

Technology Support

<http://camosun.ca/its>

Writing Centre

<http://camosun.ca/writing-centre>

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 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the

course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

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.