

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 1001 CRITICAL THINKING

(Previously PH 1001 Practical Reasoning)

UK LEVEL 4
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3

(Updated FALL 2022)

PREREQUISITES:

None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to reasoning with an emphasis on critical thinking. Training in the application of practical decision-making in various domains, such as politics, law, management, science, media and everyday life issues.

RATIONALE:

This course provides practical skills with some theoretical background in the reasoning processes by which we reach conclusions in everyday life, as well as in academic disciplines like philosophy. It prepares the student for critical thinking and develops his/her critical awareness, needed when faced with texts, case studies, articles, arguments, speeches, and information from the media. The course should be of special interest to students in all areas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:
1. Distinguish between “good” and “bad” inferences of different types in various forms of communication.
 2. Improve reasoning and critical skills.
 3. Construct rationally persuasive arguments in a wide variety of field such as science, law, art, media, management and ethics.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

- In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:
- Class lectures, interactive learning (class discussions), and exercises in decision-making in class.
 - Exercises are assigned as homework, the answers to which are reviewed in class.
 - Guidance is provided as to how to write a philosophy paper.
 - Use of a debate to practise argumentation skills.
 - Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can ask questions, see their exams, and/or go through lecture material.
 - Use of a blackboard site, where lecturers post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.

ASSESSMENT:

Summative:

First assessment: Portfolio of assignments Midterm examination	30%
Oral debate conducted in groups	10%

	<table border="1" data-bbox="669 100 1414 138"> <tr> <td>Final assessment: Final examination</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="669 205 1414 306"> <tr> <td>Home assignments Formative</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative “use your type of formative assessment” aims to prepare students for the examination. The midterm examination tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2. The final examination tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	Final assessment: Final examination	60%	Home assignments Formative	0%		
Final assessment: Final examination	60%						
Home assignments Formative	0%						
INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Bowell, T. and Kemp, G. <u>Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide</u>. Oxon: Routledge, 3rd edition, 2009.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Audi, R. <u>Practical Reasoning and Ethical Decision</u>. London: Routledge, 2006.</p> <p>Blackburn, S. <u>Ruling Passions: A Theory of Practical Reasoning</u>. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000.</p> <p>Salmon, H. M. <u>Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking</u>. Wadsworth Publishing Co., International edition of the Revised 6th edition, 2012.</p> <p>Thomson, A. <u>Critical Reasoning in Ethics: A Practical Introduction</u>. London: Routledge, latest edition (chapters 2 and 3)</p> <p>Toulmin, S., Richard R. and Janik A. <u>An Introduction to Reasoning</u>. 2nd ed., New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1984</p>						
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</p>						
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Verbal presentation skills using academic English.						
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Microsoft Word						
WWW RESOURCES:	www.plato.stanford.edu						

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. What is an Argument
(Examples drawn from everyday life, philosophical, moral and legal contexts.)
 - 1.1. Rhetoric: Persuasion vs. logical support
 - 1.2. Recognizing Arguments
2. Deductive Arguments
 - 2.1. General Introduction, Validity, Soundness.
 - 2.2. Valid Argument Forms
 - 2.3. Reductio Ad Absurdum.
 - 2.4. Fallacies related to deductive arguments.
3. Inductive Arguments
 - 3.1. General Introduction, Strength, Cogency.
 - 3.2. Inductive Generalizations (Enumerative Induction)
 - 3.2.1. Fallacies
 - 3.3. Statistical Syllogism
 - 3.3.1. Special Forms
 - 3.3.2. Fallacies
 - 3.4. Argument from Analogy
 - 3.4.1. Fallacies
4. Argument Reconstruction- Argument Assessment
 - 4.1. Extraneous material; Defusing the rhetoric; logical streamlining; implicit and explicit; connecting premises; relevance; ambiguity and vagueness; practical reasoning; causal generalizations.
 - 4.2. Rationally persuasive arguments; some strategies for logical assessment; refutation by counterexample.
5. Moral, Legal and Aesthetic Reasoning
 - 5.1. Moral Judgments and Moral Reasoning; Principles of Moral Reasoning; Major perspectives in Moral Reasoning.
 - 5.2. Legal Reasoning. Justifying Laws, Four Perspectives.
 - 5.3. Aesthetic Reasoning. Eight aesthetic principles; Using Aesthetic Principles to Judge Aesthetic Value; Evaluating Aesthetic Criticism: Relevance and Truth; Why Reason Aesthetically