



PHIL1175 CRITICAL THINKING
Fall 2022
3 credits

Course Outline

Classes: Tue/Thr 1:00 – 2:20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Soohyun Ahn (she/her)

Correspondence: by email (sahn@mtroyal.ca)

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

We, as human beings, can think rationally and abstractly. Critical thinking abilities are essential in recognizing and responding to one another in our society. Living well also depends on having accurate beliefs and making good choices. This course aims to equip us with the tools and strategies of critical thinking. We will learn about arguments, fallacies, cognitive biases, basic logic, and many more. Toward the end of the course, it will be unavoidable to ask prudential/pragmatic/practical/ethical questions as we practice our critical thinking abilities in everyday life. We will explore hard questions, such as what we should do when a conflict arises between what seems to be ethical and what seems to be evidentially warranted.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- Appreciate the nature and importance of having an open mindset.
- Recognize cognitive biases and kinds of social processes that impede our abilities to reason well and make rational decisions.
- Identify good arguments and sound reasoning.
- Evaluate and formulate reasons for accepting, rejecting, or withholding judgment about claims.
- Communicate effectively and constructively with peers through discussion and written reports.

Textbook:

I will use a Creative Commons textbook (free!) entitled [<Thinking Well> by Andrew Lavin](#).

Other supplementary materials will be posted on D2L.

Course Material on D2L Brightspace

I will make all announcements including assignments via D2L. I will not send emails to notify you updates on D2L, but depending on your setting, you might receive all the updates via email. Please check D2L and your MRU email regularly.

Course Schedule

Tutorial	Class (Tuesday)	Class (Thursday)
		Sep 8 Course Overview
01 Read a supplementary article and take a quiz (due Sep 15 noon)	Sep 13 How Reasoning Works	Sep 15 Chapter 10 Cognitive Biases and Heuristics
02 Read Chapter 10 and take a quiz (due Sep 20 noon)	Sep 20 Chapter 1 Basic Concepts	Sep 22 Chapter 2 Meaning and Definition
03 Watch a YouTube clip and take a quiz (due Sep 27 noon)	Sep 27 (Supplementary) Argument and Inferences	Sep 29 <u>TEST 1</u>
1:1 Check-in/ Q&A	Oct 4 Chapter 3 Argument Mapping (1)	Oct 6 Chapter 3 Argument Mapping (2)
No Tutorial	Oct 11 Reading Break	Oct 13 Reading Break
04 Watch a YouTube clip and take a quiz (due Oct 18 noon)	Oct 18 Chapter 4 & 8 Intellectual Virtues and Vices/ Fallacies (1)	Oct 20 Chapter 4 & 8 Intellectual Virtues and Vices/ Fallacies (2)
05 Read Chapter 4 and take a quiz (due Oct 25 noon)	Oct 25 <u>TEST 2</u>	Oct 27 (Supplementary) Rhetorical Devices
06 Watch a YouTube clip and complete a short rhetorical report (due Nov 1 noon)	Nov 1 Chapter 5 What is Logic?	Nov 3 Chapter 5 Categorical Logic
07 Read Chapter 5 and take a quiz (due Nov 8 noon)	Nov 8 Chapter 6 Propositional Logic	Nov 10 <u>TEST 3</u>
1:1 Check-in/ Q&A	Nov 15 Chapter 8 Inductive Reasoning (1)	Nov 17 Chapter 8 Inductive Reasoning (2)
08 Read an article and participate and discuss (due Nov 22 noon)	Nov 22 Chapter 9 Ethical Reasoning	Nov 24 <u>TEST 4</u>
09 Read an article and participate discuss (due Nov 29 noon)	Nov 29 (Supplementary) Scientific/Legal/Aesthetical Reasoning	Dec 1 Chapter 11 Credibility
10 Read an article and discuss (due Dec 6 noon)	Dec 6 (Supplementary) Moral Encroachment	Dec 8 Review & Share <u>Case Analysis due</u>

Course Assessment

- **Tutorial Assignment** (20%, 2% each)

As you note by reading the course schedule, tutorials are conducted online, and we do not have designated tutorial times for synchronous meetings. I will post a material (if it is other than textbook chapters) and an assignment to complete every Thursday afternoon. You are expected to complete assignment by the following Tuesday noon. Mostly, you are required to read chapters/articles or watch YouTube clips and then take a quiz. Sometimes, you are asked to contribute to online discussion using discussion board. In online discussion, you are expected to leave a thoughtful comment, asking a good question, or answering a question your peer raises. More guidelines will be posted on D2L.

- **Tests** (60%)

Throughout the semester, there will be four in-class tests. Questions will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer. The duration of the test will be an hour. If you need any accommodation, please talk to me at least a week prior to the test.

- Test 1 (15%): September 29th (Thursday)
- Test 2 (15%): October 25th (Tuesday)
- Test 3 (15%): November 10th (Thursday)
- Test 4 (15%): November 24th (Thursday)

- **Case Analysis** (20%)

Case analysis is due by the end of the day (11:59 pm), Thursday, December 8th. You should submit your analysis (either pdf or docx format) to the D2L dropbox. This assignment utilizes what you have learned from this course (e.g., argument mapping). Guidelines will be provided at least two weeks prior to the due date.

Additional Notes

- Class attendance is not mandatory but encouraged for success. If you feel unwell, do not feel pressured to attend class. I will upload class notes or lecture slides on D2L after each class.
- A 1:1 check-in session is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. I want to meet all of you individually to get to know you. Meetings can be done online or in person. I will guide you on how to book an appointment at the end of September. Whether you do one or not, these meetings do not impact your grade.
- No single assignment/test is required to pass the course.
- There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Important Dates

Last day to Add/Drop the course with refund is September 16th.

Last day to withdraw from a course or program with an award of "W" grade(s) is November 18th.

To see more of those dates, visit [Critical Dates](#).

Policy on Late Assignments or Missed Tests

No make-up exams are granted unless a medical note or a proper document is provided in advance. Without an acceptable excuse, penalties for late assignments will be a half letter grade for each day the assignment is late, to a maximum of the equivalent of 4 full letter grades. Missing assignments receive a zero.

Grading Scheme

Assignments and tests will be given a numerical grade. The following scale will be used to convert percentages to letter grades and grade points. The final grade will be determined based on grade weightings for all assessments identified in the course outline.

Mark (%)	95-	85-	80-	77-	73-	70-	67-	63-	60-	55-	50-	0-
Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
GPA	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0
	Excellent (superior Performance)			Good (above average performance)			Satisfactory (basic understanding)			Minimal (marginal performance)		Fail

* You have rights to initiate Appeal of Final Grade. For Grounds for Appeal and Appeal Process, read [regulations](#).

Interactive Technology

We will use Classroom Response Systems or CRS (e.g., iClicker, Mentimeter, Kahoot!) a lot during the class. To participate in CRS activities, you will need to have a wifi-connected smartphone, tablet, or laptop in the classroom. There is no account to set up, and personal data will not be tracked. Participation is not mandatory, and no grades are associated with it. Students do report, however, that participating in CRS does increase their interest in and understanding of the course material.

Electronic Device Policy

Since we will be using CRS a lot, you are welcome to have smart phones, iPads, laptops, etc. in the classroom. That said, the only legitimate use of such devices in the classroom are academic ones - e.g., taking notes, accessing course readings, participating in CRS, etc. In other words, texting, checking email, other forms of social media, browsing irrelevant websites, and playing games are not allowed in the classroom. Any use of such devices which disrupts the academic aims of the class, especially the advancement of learning for all students, is forbidden. Any student who refuses to abide will be asked to leave.

Matching Software Policy

In this course, you will be asked to submit assignments in an electronic form to a text-matching service to which MRU subscribes called Turnitin.com. This is a service that checks textual material for originality. MRU authorizes the use of text Matching Software for educational purposes. Limited personal information should be entered into the software. It is recommended that personal information entered be limited to MRU identification number, institutional email address and course work.

By submitting your material, you agree that your paper will be subject to a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Submitted data resides with the software company outside the University and is used to provide comparisons that promote academic integrity. Once submitted, your materials will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database and used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Students have the right to opt-out of using the software and may choose another form of originality checking, subject to the agreement of the instructor. Normally, students must notify their instructor of their intention to opt out no later than ten business days after the add/drop date for their course/term. Inquiries regarding the use of Turnitin.com in your course can be directed to your course instructor [title, business address and phone number]. General information about Turnitin.com, including training materials and the University's reasons for using it, can be found on the ADC website (direct link: <http://bit.ly/d2l-assignments>)."

Communication between students and the instructor

When you need to contact me outside classroom, send me an email. You need to use your MRU e-mail account, not any other e-mail accounts. In the subject line of your e-mail, please include the code of the course, PHIL 1175. Please start your e-mail with a greeting and type your full name at the end of your message. You will get a response from me within the next 24 hours, except for weekends. And I expect the same promptness from you.

Academic Accommodation

If you are a student with an Academic Accommodation Memo and Professor Acknowledgement form from Accessibility Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your Accommodations in a private and confidential setting.

If you require Academic Accommodations for a reason other than Disability, please make an appointment with me to discuss or contact Diversity and Human Rights Services at 403-440-5956.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Are you feeling overwhelmed, stressed, anxious or unmotivated? Help is available! Seeking mental health support can have a positive impact on your wellbeing, and help you navigate your academic journey. You can check [MRU mental health website](#) for all resources available on campus. I am also here to help you! Come and talk to me during a 1:1 check-in session.

Early Support

As your instructor, I will do my best to support your success during the term. This may include identifying concerns I have about your academic progress or well-being through Early Support. Using Early Support, I can connect you with the Office of Student Success which offers students support and assistance in getting back on track to success. If this does occur, you will be contacted directly by the Office of Student Success. Early Support does not in any way affect or appear on your academic record or transcript. If you find yourself in need of additional support throughout the semester, you can utilize Early Support through the self-referral process at mry.ca/EarlySupport.

Student Learning Services (SLS)

It is crucial to know what learning resources are available on campus in successful learning. SLS is the first point of contact when you want to promote your learning and academic success in general. Take charge of your learning by working with Writing and Learning Strategists, Learning Peers, and Mentors. Develop stronger studying and writing skills, work toward a better understanding of course content, and connect with mentors to help you succeed at university and beyond. More about Writing and Learning Writing and Learning Strategists can help you with writing, learning, time management, planning a presentation, academic reading strategies, exam preparation strategies, organizing ideas, editing techniques, and more.

Appointments are free of charge and can be booked online (through MyMRU), by phone, or in person. Workshops are also offered for a variety of popular topics. Visit [SLS website](#).

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism are regarded as a serious academic dishonesty/misconduct. Such academic dishonesty can have consequences ranging from a warning to a grade of F on your transcript for that course together with a notation that this grade was received due to academic misconduct, or it can even result in probation, suspension, or expulsion. Intellectual honesty requires that you submit an assignment that you have actually authored by yourself. Moreover, whenever you submit your assignments, I expect you to include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. For information on the various kinds of academic misconduct please refer to the [Code of Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Non-Academic Misconduct

The University is a community of students, faculty and staff involved in learning, teaching, research and other activities. All members of this community are expected to conduct themselves in certain manners. The entire student code of conduct is available on the university website under the section of [Student Community Standards](#).

Use of Instructor-Provided Materials

You are not allowed to use any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes, slides or teaching materials presented or provided by me. If you create unauthorized recordings, then you violate intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act and may be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. However, if you have obtained permission through [Access and Inclusion Services](#), then you have certain rights to be accommodated. In this case, please talk to me and I will do my best to help you.