

PHIL 125E - Practical Logic*3 Credits, 3 hours*

Practical Logic refers to the elementary methods and principles for analyzing, evaluating and constructing arguments. The course will focus on theory, explaining the core concepts and theoretical tools necessary for proper philosophical reasoning. This theoretical study will provide an introduction to formal notation, syllogism, informal fallacies, definitions and common argument forms. The course will also include instruction in the practical use of logic by explaining the skills and procedures used in sound argumentation. This practical exercise will provide basic instruction in writing arguments, evaluating media and applying diagnostic methods to reasoning as it occurs in contemporary debates.

No prerequisites are required for this course.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Tuesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm
Thursdays 9:00pm – 12:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Tuesdays	6:30pm – 9:30pm	PHIL 125E Team
Thursdays	6:30pm - 9:30pm	PHIL 125E Team

Required Resources

Jerome E. Bickenbach and Jacqueline M. Davies, *Good Reasons for Better Arguments: An Introduction to the Skills and Values of Critical Thinking*, (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1997)

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Make important technical distinctions in regard to language and arguments.
- Interpret and critically assess important texts and arguments.
- Identify different forms of reasoning and fallacies.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of four exams. The first three exams will only cover new material, but the final exam will be cumulative. These exams will be both content and skill based, and an outline for each exam will be provided before the exam.

First Exam	19 May	15%
Second Exam	28 May	20%
Third Exam	9 June	25%
Final Exam	18 June	40%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

The minimum standard for passing this course is a grade of D (50%).

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
Minimum Pass	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics**1. Critical Thinking: What and Why**

- 1.1 What's in a Name?
- 1.2 Critical Thinking and the Search for Good Reasons
- 1.3 Who's to Say What a Good Reason Is?
- 1.4 Good Reasons, Better Arguments and Rationality
- 1.5 Rational Discourse: Giving Reasons

2. Arguments

- 2.1 Argument Structure and Construction
- 2.2 The Argument: Form and Function
- 2.3 Arguments and Non-arguments
- 2.4 Units of Meaning

- 2.5 Standard Form for Simple Arguments
- 2.6 Enthymemes and the Principle of Charity
- 2.7 Standard Form for Complex Arguments
- 2.8 Expressing Yourself in Argument Form

3. Language

- 3.1 Definitions: Explaining Meaning
- 3.2 Definitions: Arguing Meaning
- 3.3 Understanding Conditionals and the Relationship of Implication
- 3.4 Language and the Gap between Intention and Communication

4. Good Arguments

- 4.1 Evaluating Arguments
- 4.2 Arguments, Arguers and Conclusions: Where to Start Your Evaluation
- 4.3 Acceptability
- 4.4 Relevance
- 4.5 Sufficiency

5. Bad Arguments

- 5.1 Fallacy Spotting and Building a Better Argument
Specific Fallacies will be the focus, and relevant pages given in the lecture(s)

6. Deduction

- 6.1 The Three Modes of Argumentation
- 6.2 Validity
- 6.3 Categorical Logic
- 6.4 Immediate Inferences
- 6.5 Syllogisms
- 6.6 Propositional Logic
Valid Deductive Arguments
- 6.7 The Strengths and Weaknesses of Deduction

7. Induction

- 7.1 Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments, Fourth Edition*, pp.9-17, 31-36.

Performance Requirements

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No late assignments are accepted after the last day of classes. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar (www.keyano.ca/creditcalendar).

The Keyano College credit calendar also has information about Student Rights and Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own;
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating);
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work;
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications;
- The willful distortion of results or data;
- Substitution in an examination by another person;
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment; and
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Services department is committed to Keyano students and their academic success. There are a variety of student supports available at Keyano College during the Spring Session. Due to the continuing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the offered support services will be implemented differently this semester by being provided virtually.

All student services are available during Keyano business hours: Monday to Friday, 8h30-16h30.

Accessibility Services: provides individual and group learning strategy instruction for all students. Meet with a Learning Strategist to learn studying and test-taking strategies for online classes.

Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with a Learning Strategist to discuss their current learning barriers and possible accommodations. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to contact us to request them for the semester. Please note that requesting accommodations is a process and requires time to arrange. Contact us as soon as you know you may require accommodations. For accessibility services supports and to book a virtual appointment, please contact accessibility.services@keyano.ca.

Wellness Services: offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. All individual appointments will continue virtually.

Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the virtual group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing topics including mindfulness and test anxiety.

Individual virtual appointments can be made by emailing wellness.services@keyano.ca. If you require mental health supports outside of business hours, please contact 211 from anywhere in Alberta to receive information about community supports.

Library Services: provides students with research and information supports as they engage in their studies. Although the Keyano Library is physically closed, we remain open online. Library staff are available to support you virtually during the spring semester. For library service supports and inquiries, please email askthelibrary@keyano.ca.

Individual support with the Information Librarian will be provided virtually. Appointments can be requested by email or by placing a [Book a Librarian](#) request using the following online form: <https://forms.keyano.ca/Library/Virtual-Book-A-Librarian>.

Research and Subject Guides are helpful resources when conducting research or addressing your information needs. To view a subject or course specific guide, use the following [Subject Guides](#) link: <http://keyano.beta.libguides.com/?b=g&d=a>. To access additional research resources, including Citation Guides (APA, MLA, Chicago, or IEEE), go to the Research Help Library page: <https://www.keyano.ca/en/student-services/research-help.aspx>

For the most up to date information relating to the Library, please view the Library Closure Information box on the [Keyano Library homepage](#) or by going directly to this page: <https://www.keyano.ca/en/student-services/library-closure-information.aspx>

Tutoring Supports: for tutoring supports and assistance with course content, please contact your instructor during office hours or by appointment. In addition, we invite you to meet virtually with a Learning Strategist to ensure that you have a study system that works for your learning needs. Learning Strategists can help you maximize instructor office hour time.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Services team.

Authorization

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

Mark Young, Instructor

Jean-Pierre De Villiers, Chair

Date Authorized

Vincella Thompson, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor

Registrar's Office