

# Critical Thinking

PHILOSOPHY 105/G  
Semester 1, 2014



## Teaching Staff

Lecturer and course coordinator	Lecturer
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## Course Aims

In this course, you will learn how to systematically evaluate your beliefs, and develop techniques to form good beliefs and avoid bad ones. You will learn how to recognise, reconstruct and evaluate arguments. You will learn to identify and avoid common thinking mistakes that lead to the formation of bad beliefs. You will learn to use basic logical tools to analyse arguments. You will apply these skills in a number of areas including science, moral theories, and law.

## Lectures & Tutorials

The lectures will be complementary to the textbook chapters. We will talk about the most important themes and present examples of important concepts. There are two streams in the course, and you only need to be enrolled in one stream. However, you may go to any lectures you like, so long as you attend one lecture on Tuesday and one on Thursday.

	Time	Tuesday	Thursday
<b>Stream I</b>	13:00-14:00	F&PAA/260-115	F&PAA/260-115
<b>Stream II</b>	14:00-15:00	LibB15/109-B15	LibB15/109-B15

Your tutorials form an integral part of the course and are mandatory. If you haven't enrolled in a tutorial, your enrolment is incomplete. You must go to the tutorial for which you are enrolled. You should manage your enrolment to avoid timetable clashes. We will have very limited ability to change your tutorial group after your enrolment has been finalised. Tutorials start in the second week of the semester. Tutorials in week 2 will cover the material from chapter 1, in week 3 that of chapter 2, and so on. To prepare for your tutorials, you must complete the tutorial activity on the course website.

## Textbook

The course is based on the textbook Lewis Vaughan, *The Power of Critical Thinking, Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims* by (New York; Oxford University Press, 2013). You will find it at the University Bookstore. The textbook is essential to the course and you must buy your own copy. Reading the chapters and doing exercises in the book will be essential for you to succeed in this course.

The textbook has a [companion website](#), which contains additional material and resources to help you throughout the semester.

## Course website

The [course website](#) is the main website for the course and contains all the resources you will need during the semester. Most importantly, it contains the tutorial activities, which you must do before you attend your tutorials.

## Course Schedule

The course will roughly follow the structure of the textbook. The textbook has 11 chapters and the semester has 12 weeks. The first lecture will be an introduction to the course and the last lecture will be devoted to revision. The remaining lectures during the semester will cover the material of each chapter, with a natural division of 2 lectures for each chapter. The course website and activities are divided in the same order as the chapters.

## Assessment

There are two main components to the assessment. A two-hour final exam worth 60% of your final mark, and coursework activities worth 40% of your final work. The coursework activities will all be conducted online.

## Coursework

### Reading Activities

There are 11 online reading activities throughout the semester, one for each chapter of the book. You will find them on Cecil, in the Reading activities. The reading activities are multi-choice and True/False questions. Each activity is worth 2% of your final mark, and we will take your best 10 results. Thus, the reading activities will count towards 20% of your final mark.

### **Online activities:**

There will be 2 online activities conducted on Turnitin, using the Peermark features. Each activity will be worth 10% of your final mark. In the first activity, you will be asked to evaluate an argument. In the second activity, you will be asked to write your own argument on some specific issues. Each activity will have a Peermark component, in which you will have to comment on other students' work.