

**PHIL ###: Critical Thinking  
Semester/Year**

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Office Hours: Office hour times Or by Skype  
Meeting times: Time1 – time2 in Building#

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of logical analysis. Logic, as a discipline, is the science of arguments; more specifically, it 1) helps us determine whether an argument is persuasive or unpersuasive and 2) helps us reason better. Logical, as well as illogical, arguments are used to persuade people, and you are routinely presented with these arguments. It is an unfortunate fact that people are sometimes psychologically persuaded by objectively unpersuasive arguments and that people are sometimes not psychologically persuaded by objectively persuasive arguments. Therefore, insofar as it is good to be psychologically persuaded when given an objectively persuasive argument and insofar as it is good to not be psychologically persuaded when given an objectively unpersuasive argument, it is good for you to study logic. Furthermore, reasoning well is not only valuable to professionals, such as an attorney arguing a case or a medical doctor determining a diagnosis and treatment, but it is also valuable to the voter wanting to make an informed selection and to the consumer wanting to decide what product best meets her needs. In short, reasoning well and evaluating arguments are valuable skills to have in our everyday lives. Hence, the study of logic is considered an important part of every student's education.

### **Required Text and Supplementary Resources**

*A Concise Introduction to Logic*, Twelfth Edition 2012 by Patrick J. Hurley  
Integrated Mindtap

- Two options: (1) Loose leaf paper copy, plus Mindtap; (2) Mindtap alone (which includes electronic version of the textbook)

### **Course Blackboard™ Site**

Amongst other resources, the course syllabus, course schedule, handouts, grades, and announcements will be posted on the course Blackboard™ site. You will also access Mindtap and your homework assignments through this Blackboard™. To access Blackboard™, go to <https://ucmo.blackboard.com/webapps/login/> and log in with your UCMO online ID and password. It is your responsibility to check the course Blackboard™ site on a regular basis.

## Course Goals

This course fulfills competency 6 of UCM's General Education Program: Knowledge and appreciation of and/or participation in the creation of performance of literature, languages, and the arts using the standards of evidence and reasoning appropriate to the humanities and the arts.<sup>1</sup> Especially important to our purposes is that "[s]tudents will be exposed to a general inquiry into consciousness, values, and ideals as they seek to describe how experiences and ideas shape our understanding of the world. Students will also explain the historical, linguistic, stylistic, cultural and/or social contexts of these experiences and ideas that address the human condition. Students will employ critical, analytical, interpretative, and speculative methods to study the meanings, values, effects and scope of human endeavors."<sup>2</sup>

## Course Overview and Homework

The course will be divided into seven units:

- Unit 1: chapter 1
- Unit 2: chapter 2
- Unit 3: chapters 3
- Unit 4: chapters 9 and 10
- Unit 5: chapter 4
- Unit 6: chapter 5
- Unit 7 chapter 6
- Unit 8 appendix B

Classroom: For this course, I will be employing a flipped classroom model. You will listen to my lectures outside of the classroom via video. The purpose of the classroom will be (1) to address questions you have regarding the material and (2) practice applying the concepts. To accomplish (1) you must read the textbook and listen to the videos **actively**. So have a notebook with you when reading or listening. When you have a question, write it down, along with the context, and bring it to class.

Homework: Your graded homework is assigned through Aplaia, which can be found under Assignments in Blackboard™. You must submit the unit homework before that unit's major quiz. However, I recommend that you do not procrastinate. You should do your homework at the same rate as the class proceeds. **I will only entertain extensions for the last set of homework in a unit, except in rare circumstances.**

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ucmo.edu/hlc/documents/GeneralEducationProgram.pdf>, 11-12.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

## Attendance Policy

The University's attendance policy appears on page 20 of the Undergraduate Catalog 2015. It states that [s]tudents are expected to attend all lectures, seminars, laboratories, and fieldwork for each registered class, and to complete all work assigned by the instructor for the class." It also states that students have the right to make up missed course requirements "when a student is absent because of participation in approved university activities, university programs (that the student is required to attend), or when absence has been verified by the Office of Student Experience and Engagement [(660-543-4114, ADM 214)]. A student must contact his/her instructor on the first day the student returns to class... When absent due to extenuating circumstances such as documented medical issues, a death in the family, or military order, a student may ask the Office of Student Experience and Engagement to verify the absence. If the absence is verified, the student will be provided a written electronic notice which s/he may distribute to faculty. It is the responsibility of the student to make the request within a reasonable time frame, distribute the documentation to faculty within two days of receiving it, and to make arrangements with faculty to make up all missed work." An absence will be excused if the above conditions are met, including the requirement that the electronic documentation is distributed to me within a reasonable time frame. For further details, please consult the Undergraduate Catalog (<https://www.ucmo.edu/academics/catalogs/documents/2015UGCatalog.pdf>).

Attendance/Participation is worth 10% of your grade. Unexcused absences, or poor participation (e.g. sleeping or goofing off the whole time), will result in a 1% reduction of this portion of your grade.

## Estimated Time Commitments and How to Seek Help

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks;
- Or at least an equivalent amount of work...

It is extremely important that you not allow yourself to fall behind in this course. Again, should you find that you are struggling with the material, please seek help as soon as possible.

If you are having difficulty with a concept, you are welcomed to email me. However, I have found that e-mail is **not** conducive to clarifying the concepts covered in this course. As a result, I will often reply that we should meet in person to resolve the difficulty. You can meet with me in person during office hours or by making an appointment.

## Assessment

Your course grade will be determined according to your performance on the following:

Participation:	10%
Aplia assignments (homework):	40%

Major Quizzes (weighted equally):

50%

Participation: Per class, I will determine whether your participation was acceptable or unacceptable. Acceptable earns 1 point. Unacceptable earns 0 points. Acceptable participation requires attendance, attentiveness, and good faith answers when called upon. You will be called upon.

Aplia Assignments: Aplia is the program by which you will do your homework. You will find links to your assignments under Assignments in Blackboard™. For each kind of question, you will have three opportunities to answer correctly. These assignments will be worth 30% of your grade.

Major Quizzes: There will be major quizzes testing you over the corresponding unit. The **only** way to take a quiz in advance without penalty or to take a make-up quiz without penalty is with a documented, university-accepted excuse (e.g. medical emergency). If you miss a quiz and do not have a documented, university-accepted excuse, you may take a make-up quiz, but it will be penalized 15% off of the top. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

With respect to taking a make-up quizzes, you must contact me **within 48 hours** of the quiz in order to schedule a time to make it up. Failure to do so will mean you will not be able to take a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes must be taken within a week after the original exam. Failure to do so will mean you will not be able to take it. Not taking the make-up exam will result in a 0.

See the course schedule for expected quiz dates. The quizzes will be taken in-class. You will have at least twenty-five minutes to complete the quiz.

Grading: <http://www.ucmo.edu/registrar/grades/> defines the grading scale as such:

- A – work of marked excellence
- B – work of superior quality
- C – work of average quality
- D – work of inferior quality
- F – failure to do work of passing quality

Accordingly, letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

>89 – 100:	A
>79 – 89:	B
>69 – 79:	C
>59 – 69 :	D
0 – 59:	F

Note that, since UCMO does not use +/- scale, I roundup in determining the grades. But also note that the amount I am willing to roundup is already accounted for.

## **Other Policies**

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving unauthorized aid on examinations or other assigned work, and plagiarism. For more on academic honesty and dishonesty, including UCMO's definition of 'plagiarism' see: <http://www.ucmo.edu/acct/documents/AcademicHonestyPolicy.pdf>

Intellectual Property: Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the **property of the instructor**. Video and audio recording of lectures without the consent of the instructor is **prohibited**. On request, the instructor may grant permission for students and auditors to audiotape lectures, on the condition that the individual making the recording only uses these audio recordings as a study aid. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course. **Students and auditors of this class are also prohibited from making commercial use of class lectures.**

Students with Disabilities: The Office of Accessible Services, Elliot Union 222, 660-543-4421, coordinates accommodations and services for UCM students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in UCMO classes and have not contacted the Office of Accessible Services, please do so as soon as possible. They will contact me regarding the accommodations you need.

## Course Schedule

Typically, each classroom meeting will be devoted to one section. Sometimes two sections will be covered instead of one (e.g. if one of the sections is very short). Below is the order in which we will cover the sections.

### The Basics of Deductive and Inductive Logic

Chapter 1, sections 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6  
Quiz 1

Chapter 2, sections 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5  
Quiz 2

Chapter 3, sections 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4  
Quiz 3

### Inductive Logic in More Detail (Analogical and Causal Reasoning)

Chapter 9, section 9.1

Chapter 10, sections 10.1 10.2  
Quiz 4

### Deductive Logic in More Detail (Aristotelean Logic and the Beginning of Propositional Logic)

Chapter 4, sections 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7  
Quiz 5

Chapter 5, sections 5.1 5.2 5.3  
Quiz 6

Chapter 6, sections 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4  
Quiz 7

Appendix B (Truth Trees)  
Quiz 8