





Philosophy (PHIL) 252

Critical Thinking (Revision 11)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

PHIL 252 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview



PHIL 252 is designed to improve a student's ability to analyse and evaluate the kinds of arguments and theories commonly met with in everyday life. The course also helps students improve their own arguments and presentations by showing them how to draw sound conclusions from available evidence and how to construct well-reasoned cases to support these conclusions.

Although the course focuses on the informal logic of everyday language, it includes some training in elementary formal logic. Students are taught how to apply fundamental rules and standards of logical reasoning to the sorts of arguments encountered in newspapers, magazines and other media, and university-level textbooks in most fields.


Outline


- Unit 1: Introduction: The Language of Argumentation
- Unit 2: Analyzing Arguments: Content and Structure
- Unit 3: Evaluating Arguments: Validity, Soundness, and Problems of Interpretation
- Unit 4: Syllogistic Reasoning
- Unit 5: Common Fallacies of Reasoning
- Unit 6: Nondeductive Arguments
- Unit 7: The Use and Misuse of Statistics
- Unit 8: Explanations and Empirical Theories
- Unit 9: Conceptual Theories and Definitions
- Unit 10: Writing a Short Critical Essay

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  you must complete and submit all of the assignments and write the final exam. You must achieve an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  for the course. Your final grade in the course will be based on the marks achieved for the following activities.


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	20%
Assignment 2	25%
Critical Essay	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#)  .

Materials

Cederblom, Jerry, and David W. Paulsen. *Critical Reasoning: Understanding and Criticizing Arguments and Theories*. 7th ed. Boston, MA:

Wadsworth, 2012. (PDF)  (PDF)

Other Materials

Students will access all other course materials online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** for the PHIL 252 challenge registration, you must complete the two parts of the challenge exam and achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)** on both parts.

Activity	Weight
Two short essays	40%
Exam	60%
Total	100%

 [Challenge for credit course registration form](#)

Important links

- > [Academic advising](#)
- > [Program planning](#)
- > [Request assistance](#)
- > [Support services](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their

individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
