

Phi 166 Reason and Belief
Hanover College, Winter 2016
Phi 166J: 1:00-1:50pm, MTWF, CLA 302
Phi 166K: 2:00-2:50pm, MTWF, CLA 302

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Winter 2016 Office Hours: 10-11 MWF, 1-2 R, and by appointment
<http://vault.hanover.edu/~bates/rb/>

Course Description

This course is an introduction to logic and critical thinking. In this course, we will learn some basic skills used in evaluating arguments. These skills include (but are not limited to) recognizing different kinds of arguments, knowing how to evaluate the strength of an argument according to its kind, and being cognizant of some common—yet misleading—mistakes in reasoning. A course in introductory logic will prepare students not only for further studies in logic, but for any endeavor—academic or otherwise—for which critical reasoning skills would be an asset.

Texts

Merrilee H. Salmon. *Introduction to logic and critical thinking*, 5th ed. Cengage, 2006. [LCT]
Theodore Schick, Jr. & Lewis Vaughn. *How to think about weird things*, 6th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2010. [WT]

Course Requirements & Grading

There will be ten homework assignments (worth 25 pts apiece) throughout the semester. Most of these assignments will be made on Wednesdays and due in class the following Monday. Some of them will be *unannounced* quizzes over the week's reading assignment, also typically held on Mondays. Late assignments and missed quizzes cannot earn a grade. There will also be two in-class exams (worth 75 pts apiece) and a comprehensive final exam (worth 150 pts). The first in-class exam will be Tues, 9 Feb; the second will be Fri, 11 Mar. The final exam will be scheduled for the week of 18 Apr. The below grading scheme presupposes regular attendance and class participation; lack thereof will result in a lowered grade.

<u>Point Distributions</u>		<u>Letter Grade Distributions</u>			
10 homeworks/quizzes, 25ea:	250	A 513-550	B+ 477-494	C+ 422-439	D+ 367-384
2 in-class exams, 75ea:	150		B 458-476	C 403-421	D 348-366
Final exam:	150	A- 495-512	B- 440-457	C- 385-402	D- 330-347
Total:	550			F 0-329	

Classroom policies

- (i) The format of this class presupposes that you have worked through the assigned reading and some practice exercises on your own at least once before coming to class. Be prepared to contribute.
- (ii) Before class begins, you are required to put your cellphone on silence and put it away for the remainder of the period.

Special Information

- Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have any special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need course materials or tests in alternative formats, notify me immediately. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.
- Academic Dishonesty: Academic honesty is essential to the intellectual life of the College. Thus, academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, is a basis for disciplinary action. No suspected case of

academic dishonesty will be taken lightly; all will be handled in accordance with the student conduct code.

- Self-care: Your academic success depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Stress is a common part of your academic life, and it is often compounded by events in your personal life. I encourage you to be mindful of your health and wellbeing, and to be proactive in dealing with stressors before they become unmanageable. Please talk with me about difficulties that may impact your academic performance. There are many resources at the College that can help.
- Dropping this course: The deadline for discretionary withdrawal from any class is 5pm, Fri, 11 Mar.
- Degree Requirements: This course partially satisfies the Examined Life (EL) LADR.

Reading Schedule

Date	Reading	Topic
Jan 11	Handout; WT: Ch.4	Knowledge and skepticism
18	WT: Ch.5	Human judgment: Heuristics and biases
25	Handout	Self-knowledge: What we know about ourselves
Feb 1	Handout	Testimony: Learning from others
8	LCT: Ch. 1; WT: Ch. 3, pp.33-38	Review: 2/8 First Exam: 2/9 Introduction to arguments: 2/10 and 2/12
15	LCT: Ch.3; WT: Ch.3, pp.39-61	Deduction, induction and informal fallacies
22	Handouts	Reconstructing arguments from a text
29	--	Winter Break
Mar 7	Handouts	Reconstructing arguments, cont'd: 3/7 and 3/8 Review: 3/9 Second Exam: 3/11
14	LCT: Ch. 9, Sects. I-IV	Categorical logic
21	LCT: Ch. 9, Sects. V-X	Categorical logic
28	WT: Ch. 6	Scientific reasoning - IBE
Apr 4	LCT: Ch. 7, Sects. I-V	Scientific reasoning - Hypothetico-deductivism
11	LCT: Ch. 7, Sects. VI-VII	Scientific reasoning - Bayesian confirmation
18	Final exam week	

This schedule is subject to change.