

# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## Course Outline

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Department of Philosophy, History & Politics  
Faculty of Arts

### **PHIL 111 - 02 Critical Thinking FALL, 2009**

Course Meeting Times: M-W-F 10:30-11:20

Course Location: IB 1020

Instructor: Dr. Geoff Bowe

Phone/Voice Mail: 377-6098

Office: AE 377

E-Mail: [gbowe@tru.ca](mailto:gbowe@tru.ca)

Office Hours: M, W 13:30-15:20

#### **Required Text:**

*Critical Thinking, Logic and Argument*, Eric Dayton, Pearson Canada, 2010.

#### **Calendar Description:**

This course helps students distinguish between good and bad reasoning. The student is introduced to logical analysis, which entails an examination of the meaning of logical terms and an investigation of their contribution to the arguments in which they occur. Considerable attention will be given to representing the logical structure of arguments and deciding their validity or invalidity.

#### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- say what is and is not an argument
- standardize arguments
- evaluate arguments
- appreciate the impact of types of language on arguments
- determine whether an argument's premises are acceptable or not
- assess parts of arguments for relevance, and identify fallacies
- understand and employ categorical logic in deduction
- understand and employ propositional logic in deduction

#### **Grading:**

**QUIZZES: 10x3% each = 30%**

**MIDTERM: 35%**

## **FINAL : 35%**

The quizzes and exams are to be completed using Moodle, a course management software package that delivers course content over the Internet. Its use at TRU is free to the student and it has been adapted for use in this course. You must keep up with readings and complete the weekly quizzes by the deadlines given.

The Midterm exam is done by Moodle and covers Chapters 1-6.

The Final Exam is a 2 hour **in-lab** Moodle exam covering all chapters.

### **Schedule of Readings:**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
I	INTRO	INTRO
II	1	Introduction to Inference and Argument
III	2	Classification and Definition
IV	3	Ambiguity and Circularity
V	4	Inductive Reasoning and its Fallacies
VI	4	Inductive Reasoning and its Fallacies
VII	1-4	REVIEW, MIDTERM EXAM
VIII	5	Relevance, Bias and Opinion
IX	6	Categorical Logic
X	6	Categorical Logic
XI	7	Sentence Logic and Consistency
XII	7	Sentence Logic and Consistency
XIII		Review