

SYLLABUS

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PHIL 105: Critical Thinking

This syllabus includes the following sections:

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to Philosophy 105! During this course, we'll learn how to identify the arguments that are being given in support of various conclusions, how to assess those arguments, and how to make good inferences from information that we are given. Topics will include argument reconstruction, informal logic, fallacies, introductory formal logic, and probabilistic reasoning. Consequently, the course will fit the needs of distance learners who aspire to improve their critical thinking skills.

This course is one of the Friday Center's online-only courses, which means that the course comprises online learning only. For each lesson, you will watch a series of videos and complete corresponding practice exercises. The videos are hosted on YouTube, so you will not need any additional software to view them. There will be a couple of optional online conferences. You will take several quizzes and a final exam.

The course is being taught by Christopher Dorst. Although the videos feature Ram Neta, a philosophy professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong of Duke University, Chris is the sole instructor for this course.

Specific course requirements and class meeting dates/times are listed in the Course Requirements section below.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin, *Understanding Arguments: An Introduction to Informal Logic*, 8th edition, Cengage Learning (2010). The ISBN is 978-0-495-60395-5.

You may purchase this textbook from Friday Center Books & Gifts in person, [online](#), [by mail](#), or by phone.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Lessons and Practice Exercises

Begin each lesson by watching all of the lecture videos and by completing the corresponding exercises. These exercises will help you prepare for the paper assignments, quarterly quizzes, and final exam. Note that a few videos do not have any corresponding practice exercises. The online exercises for each unit must be completed by the deadline listed on the schedule.

The practice exercises are available in Exercises & Assessments in the left navigation bar of this Sakai site. You will have one attempt to complete each set of practice exercises, and your grade will be based on accuracy. After you complete each set of exercises, you will be able to see an explanation that details how to arrive at the correct answer. I strongly encourage you to review this feedback; you can access it at the bottom of the Exercises & Assessments page under the Submitted Assessments section.

Many of you may be unfamiliar with using Sakai's Assessment tool, which is how you will complete your practice exercises, quizzes, and final exam. Below is a short video that shows you how to do it. I strongly encourage you to watch this video before you get started on your practice exercises in Lesson 1.

UNC Friday Center - How to Take an Assessment in Sakai



Quizzes

You will complete a quiz at the end of each of the four units. The quizzes are multiple choice and untimed. Four different versions of each quiz exist. Start by taking version A of the quiz. If you are pleased with your score, then you can ignore the rest of the versions; however, if you would like to re-attempt a quiz for a higher grade, you may do so up to three more times by taking versions B, C, and D. The version on which you score the highest will be the one I factor into your course grade.

For example, perhaps you score an 75 percent on Quiz 1-A. Then you do some additional studying and re-attempt the quiz by taking Quiz 1-B (you score an 85 percent), Quiz 1-C (you score an 82 percent), and Quiz 1-D (you score a 92 percent). At the end of the semester, I would use your highest score, the 92 percent from Quiz 1-

D, when calculating your final grade and would drop the rest.

To prepare for the quizzes, make sure that you have watched all of the lecture videos from the unit and completed the corresponding practice exercises. The quizzes will become available at the end of each unit and will remain open for two weeks.

Paper Assignments

You will write two short papers (one to two pages each) this semester. See the Assignments section of this Sakai site for more detailed instructions on these papers. See the Schedule for due dates.

Discussion Forum

There will be an open discussion forum on Sakai so that students have a venue to share questions as they arise. These can stimulate discussion with other students. The discussions will be moderated and questions answered by the instructor. Participation in the forum is not compulsory and will not be graded.

Final Examination

At the end of the semester, you will take a final examination. The exam is multiple choice and will be taken online. To prepare for the final, review the video lectures, exercises, and quizzes. You will have 48 hours to complete the final exam.

GRADING

Your final grade will be calculated by weighing the different course components as shown below:

Requirement	Percent of Course Grade
Papers	10 percent (2 x 5 percent each)
Practice exercises	20 percent
Quizzes	40 percent (4 x 10 percent each)
Final Examination	30 percent

ACADEMIC POLICIES

By enrolling as a student in this course, you agree to abide by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill policies related to the acceptable use of online resources. Please consult the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) on topics such as copyright, net-etiquette, and privacy protection.

As part of this course, you may be asked to participate in online discussions or other online activities that may include personal information about you or other students in the course. Please be respectful of the rights and protection of other participants under the UNC-Chapel Hill [Information Security Policies](#) when participating in online classes.

When using online resources offered by organizations not affiliated with UNC-Chapel Hill, such as Google or YouTube, please note that the terms and conditions of these companies apply—not the University's Terms and Conditions. These third parties may offer different degrees of privacy protection and access rights to online content. You should be well aware of this when posting content to sites not managed by UNC-Chapel Hill.

When links to sites outside of the unc.edu domain are inserted in class discussions, please be mindful that clicking on sites not affiliated with UNC-Chapel Hill may pose a risk for your computer due to the possible

presence of malware on such sites.

Honor Code

As a UNC student, you are expected to uphold the University's [Honor Code](#). All work that you produce must be your own! [Plagiarism](#) is a serious offense and will not be tolerated in this course. Please view this brief [Plagiarism Tutorial](#) created by the librarians of UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, NC State University, and NC Central University.

Office of Accessibility/Special Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability, you can receive services through [Accessibility Resources & Service](#). You must self-identify through Accessibility Resources to receive services or accommodation from either of these offices. Accessibility Resources works closely with programs, offices, and departments throughout the University to help create an accessible environment.

The office is located in Suite 2126 of the Student Academic Services Building (SASB), 450 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC, and is open from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. You can contact them by phone at 919-962-8300 or 711 (NC-RELAY), or by email at accessibility@unc.edu.

Course Author: Ram Neta, PhD

Course Instructor: Christopher Dorst, MA

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Send comments and questions to fridaycenter@unc.edu.

