

Logic, Reason, and Persuasion

Course Info

Instructor Justin Sharber

Office Hours 1-2 pm , Monday

Philosophy Dept.

106 Somerset (the Rutgers-clock building), 5th floor, room 544

Core Curriculum Learning Goal: This course meets goal 'o': 'Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.'
Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

Core Curriculum assessment is not a part of your GPA. Performance is assessed by the following labels:

Outstanding, Good, Satisfactory, Poor. For more information, see

<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/requirements/core> .

The Course

This course addresses logic and reason as broadly as possible. We will cover deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, analyzing arguments, argument structure, common fallacies, and more.

Texts

Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict.

Bruce Waller. 6th Ed. Pearson, 2012.

Website on <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> .

Coursework

There is not much. This course has a midterm and a final, which will roughly be weighted 50 - 50.

Participation can potentially help your grade. I may assign several response essays, but they would be short.

Contacting Me

Email jsharber@philosophy.rutgers.edu

If you have a concern, it is much easier if you come talk to me, either at the end of class or in office hours. Email me only if you've been abducted by aliens.

Schedule

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|---------|---|
| Day 1. | Types of Argument, Syllabus |
| Day 2. | Arguments, Deduction
Ch. 2: 14-23 |
| Day 3. | Induction
Ch. 2: 23-25 |
| Day 4. | Ad Hominem Arguments
Ch. 3 |
| Day 5. | Strawman Arguments
Ch. 4 |
| Day 6. | Determining the right question
Ch. 5 |
| Day 7. | Determining relevance for reasons
Ch. 6 |
| Day 8. | Convergent vs. Linked Arguments
Ch. 7: 92-96 |
| Day 9. | Complex Arguments, Assumptions
Ch. 7: 96-113 |
| Day 10. | Burden of Proof
Ch. 8 |
| Day 11. | Appeal to Authority
Ch. 10 |

- Day 12. Figurative Analogy, Deductive Analogy
Ch. 11: 164-184
- Day 13. Inductive Analogy
Ch. 11: 184-201
- Day 14. Slippery Slope
Ch. 12: 204-211
- Day 15. Dilemmas
Ch. 12: 211-220
- Day 16. Golden Mean
Ch. 12: 220-224
- Day 17. Begging the Question
Ch. 13
- Day 18. **Exam 1**
(Near Nov. 1)
- Day 19. Language and its Pitfalls
Ch. 9
- Day 20. More issues with language
Sakai
- Day 21. "The Whole Truth"
Ch. 16
- Day 22. Necessary & Sufficient Conditions
Ch. 14: 253-258
- Day 23. Conditional Statements and inferences
Ch. 14: 258-277
- Day 24. Causation and Correlation, Scientific Method
Ch. 15: 278-293
- Day 25. Confirmation Bias
Ch. 15: 293-297
Sakai

Day 26. Interpreting statistical claims
Ch. 17: 343-346
Sakai

Day 27. Statistics: Apples & oranges
Ch. 17: 348-356
Sakai

Day 28. Truth Tables
Ch. 18

Day 29. Consider the Verdict
P. 411

———— **Exam 2**
(Dec. 15-22)