

Logic, Reasoning, & Persuasion

(01:730:101:02)

Fall 2018

Monday & Wednesday 4:30PM - 5:50PM

Instructor Information

Instructor

Eli Shupe

Email

eli.shupe@rutgers.edu

Office Location & Hours

106 Somerset, 5th Floor
12:00PM-1:00PM Thursdays

General Information

Description

In this class, you will learn how to construct and evaluate arguments. Among other things, expect this course to cover the informal basics of deductive and inductive logic, the different standards of evidence and when they are best applied, and the ways in which our perceptual and cognitive systems can mislead us. We will also take an in-depth look at contexts in which reasoning goes wrong (pseudoscience, scams, “fake news”) as well as use our reasoning and assessment skills to solve real-world problems.

Grades

Participation - 10%

First test - 10%

Second test - 10%

Homework - 30%

First assignment -15%

Final assignment - 25%

Participation

This consists of attending class, engaging in class discussion, asking questions, and otherwise demonstrating your involvement in the material.

Homework

There will be many short homework assignments given over the course of the term. These will typically be due at the beginning of the next class day after they are assigned.

Attendance and Lateness

If you miss one of the tests, you will receive a zero. Unexcused absences will negatively impact your participation grade. Five unexcused absences will earn you an F in the course. Unexcused late homework will not be accepted. Unexcused late assignments will have 10% deducted from their grade per day that they are late (e.g., a paper that would have received a grade of 80% will receive a grade of 70% if it is one day late).

Academic Integrity

I take cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Don't do it. The university's policy on academic integrity can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy#_AcademicIntegrity.

Disability Accommodation & Related Issues

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentationguidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Outside of these official accommodations, I encourage students to e-mail or meet with me if they are struggling.

When sensitive or potentially triggering topics will be covered in class, I will generally provide a warning, either by e-mail or at the end of the class period before.

If your preferred name is *not* the name that appears on SAKAI, please let me know so that I can refer to you correctly in class.

Course Materials

Required Text

THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT. I will provide all of your readings on SAKAI.

Rough Course Outline

Week	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
Wed Sept 5	Syllabus	"Philosopher Daniel Dennett's 7 Tools for Critical Thinking"	
Mon Sept 10	Introduction to reasoning	Cavender & Kahane, Ch. 1.1-1.4	
Wed Sept 12	Introduction to reasoning	"	Zebra puzzle
Mon Sept 17	Deduction and induction		
Wed Sept 19	Deduction and Induction		
Mon Sept 24	Necessary and Sufficient Conditions	Wireless Philosophy videos 1 , 2 . Do practice questions (Khan).	Khan practice questions
Wed Sept 26	Review		
Mon Oct 1	Test!		

Week	Topic	Reading	Homework Due
Wed Oct 3	Argument structure		
Mon Oct 8	Argument structure		
Wed Oct 10	Argument structure; explanation of first assignment		
Mon Oct 15	Evidence. Standards of proof.		
Wed Oct 17	Evidence.		
Mon Oct 22	Emotions and reasoning.		
Wed Oct 24	Perception and memory.		
Mon Oct 29	Reasoning gone wrong. Pseudoscience: telling good science from bad.		
Wed Oct 31	Reasoning gone wrong. Pseudoscience.		ASSIGNMENT 1
Mon Nov 5	Reasoning gone wrong. Scientific fraud.		
Wed Nov 7	Reasoning gone wrong. Scams.		
Mon Nov 12	Reasoning gone wrong. Scams.		Double-factor authentication
Wed Nov 14	Reasoning gone wrong. Fake news		
Mon Nov 19	TBA		
Wed Nov 21	No class!		
Mon Nov 26	Second test!		
Wed Nov 28	TBA		
Mon Dec 3	TBA		
Wed Dec 5	TBA		
Mon Dec 10	TBA		
Wed Dec 12	TBA		ASSIGNMENT 2

Exam Schedule

Date	Subject
N/A	<i>THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM.</i>

