

Logic, Reasoning and Persuasion

Rutgers Winter 2019

Instructor: Ben Burgis



Textbook: See Above!

Office Hours: Skype by Appointment

Contact Info: The best way to get in touch with me is via email at bb568@philosophy.rutgers.edu (or in a pinch at my personal email benburgis@gmail.com). My Skype name is, creatively enough, benburgis.

Grading Scheme: There will be seven homework assignments, worth ten points each, for a total of 70% of your final grade. There will also be nine discussion forums worth two points each, for a total of 18% of your final grade. (In order to get credit for your participation in a given forum, you need to contribute a minimum of three times—one initial post of your own responding to the prompt, and at least two *substantive* responses to classmates. Of course, that's a *minimum*. The hope is that you'll get engaged and

excited about the topics and you'll post more than that!) That doesn't count the "Post Your Introduction" forum at the beginning of the class, which will be worth just one point. I'll also need to 'meet' with each of you at least once during the semester over Skype just to touch base about your progress in the course and see how you're enjoying things and if there's anything I can help you with. To make sure everyone does that, it'll be 'graded' (though obviously in a minimalistic, pass/fail sort of way). That's worth one point. The last 10% of your grade will be the final exam.

A word on that....

Final Exam: Rutgers' policy requires that everyone who takes an online class show their student ID when they take the final exam or when they do some equivalent end-of-semester activity. The easiest way to do that is just to hold an in-person exam. To maximize the ability of as many of you as possible to make it to that, the exam will be held in New Brunswick the Friday before spring semester classes start up again (Friday, January 18th). That said, I understand that some of you may be out of town, out of state, out of country, or colonizing distant planets during Winter Break and simply won't make it back by then. If so, you can take your exam over Skype.

Schedule:

Deadline for Post Your Introduction forum participation: December 23rd at 5 PM (This is the only 5 PM deadline, but, y'know, holidays and all that.)

Deadline for Chapters One and Two Homework and Topic One (Contingent Beliefs, Essay and *How to Want To Change Your Mind* Video) Discussion Forum Participation:

December 29th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Topic Two (Time Travel) Discussion Forum:

December January 2nd at 11:55 PM



Deadline for Chapter Three Homework and Topic Three (Ship of Theseus) Discussion Forum:

January 4th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Chapter Four Homework, Topic Four (Teletransporter and Personal Identity) Discussion Forum, and Scheduling Skype Appointment:

January 6th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Chapter Five Homework and Topic Five (Philosophy of Religion) Discussion Forum:

January 8th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Chapter Six Homework, and Topic Six (Newcomb's Puzzle) Discussion Forum:

January 10th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Chapter Seven Homework and Topic Seven (Fallacies Everywhere!) Discussion Forum:

January 12th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Chapter Eight Homework and Topic Eight (Applied Ethics) Discussion Forum:

January 14th at 11:55 PM

Deadline for Topic Nine (Buffet of Topics) Discussion Forum:

January 16th at 11:55 PM

Final Exam:

January 18th at Exact Time and Room TBA

