

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2021 2022**

**Philosophy Course Number: Phil 1230A
Reasoning and Critical Thinking**

Fall Semester
Asynchronous

Instructor: Angela Mendelovici
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: amendel5@uwo.ca

This course teaches a basic set of skills that will improve your ability to think clearly and rationally. It will help you avoid fallacies and inconsistencies, uncover implicit assumptions, and become aware of your own biases. These skills will help you identify and assess claims and arguments, such as those encountered in your coursework, in conversation, and on social media.

The course has a strong focus on hands-on practice with immediate feedback, which is facilitated with weekly short exercises that are graded quickly or instantaneously.

Course components:

- Weekly video presentations and handouts
- Weekly readings
- Weekly practice exercises and quizzes
- Closed-book final examination (during exam period, in person (London, only) or online using Proctorio)

With the exception of the in-person option for the final 0 12 2 re0000finalsexcep ha Outli

This course aims to help you

identify, understand, and evaluate claims and arguments,
understand the difference between different types of claims and arguments,
depict the structure of statements and arguments using symbolic and graphical tools,
recognize rational and non-rational influences on belief formation, including biases,
understand the importance and relevance of critical thinking skills, and
know when and how to apply critical thinking skills in both everyday and academic contexts.

Practice exercises (graded for completion, online)	20%
Quizzes (online)	20%
Final examination (in person)	60%

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.