

## **Critical Thinking and Philosophy**

**In Unit 1, we will learn about the concept of Critical Thinking and practice applying it to evaluating positions, advertising, and disagreements in practical life.**

### **Objective:**

Use the tools and concepts of logic and critical thinking to evaluate and criticize arguments.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

Our reading on Critical Thinking is:

<http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/critical/intro.php> Creative Commons NonCommercial Share and Share Alike

Our video on Critical Thinking is:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/student-toolkits-2/thinking-critically/> Creative Commons Open Courseware Unported

### **Activities:**

One Unit Quiz

Two Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## **Arguments**

**In Unit 2, we will address how arguments are structured in more detail.**

### **Objective:**

Become familiar with the parts of arguments and examples of different types of arguments.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

There are two readings in Unit 2:

ForAllx (For this unit, only read Chapter 1):

<http://www.fecundity.com/codex/forallx.pdf> CC

The second reading comes from the Critical Thinking Web at the University of Hong Kong:

<http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/arg/> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Our video comes from Oxford iTunesU:

Nature of Arguments

<https://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/critical-reasoning-for-beginners/id387875757?mt=10#ls=1> CC Oxford Open U

### **Activities:**

One Unit Quiz

Two Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## **Fallacies**

**In Unit 3, we will discover fallacies. Fallacies are errors in reasoning that happen very often. There are names and categories for different fallacies.**

### **Objective:**

Recognize fallacies by category; recognizing arguments with problems in relevance, sufficiency, acceptability.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

There are three readings in Unit 3:

Fallacies and Biases <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/fallacy/> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Fallacies pdf set [https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com/pdf/Logical\\_Fallacies\\_on\\_A4.pdf](https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com/pdf/Logical_Fallacies_on_A4.pdf) CC

Stephen Downes' Guide to Logical Fallacies  
<http://www.fallacies.ca/download/fallacies.doc> CC BY

### **Activities:**

Midterm Exam

Two Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## Symbolic Logic (Sentential)

In Unit 4 we will learn how to analyze arguments based on their sentence structure. There are ways to symbolize particular kinds of sentences, and then use those symbols to find out what makes a sentence true or false, and whether or not sentences in the form of arguments actually follow from each other with deductive validity or not.

### Objective:

Determine truth values using truth tables, generate proofs from rules of inference, and determine the validity of symbolized arguments.

### Readings and Multimedia

There are five readings in Unit 4:

ForAllx Chapter 2 <http://www.fecundity.com/codex/forallx.pdf> CC

Module on Basic Logic <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/logic/intro.php> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Module on Sentential Logic <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/logic/intro.php> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Truth Tables [http://www.butte.edu/~wmwu/iLogic/3.2/iLogic\\_3\\_2.html](http://www.butte.edu/~wmwu/iLogic/3.2/iLogic_3_2.html) CC BY

ForAllx Chapter 3 <http://www.fecundity.com/codex/forallx.pdf> CC

Our video on Symbolic Logic is:

Different Types of Arguments <https://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/critical-reasoning-for-beginners/id387875757?mt=10#ls=1> CC Oxford Open U

Our online multimedia app is:

The Logic App - <http://www.hatzicware.com/jLogic/>

**Activities:**

One Unit Quiz

At least 2 Unit Discussion Topics, to include posting of Logic App screenshots

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## **Syllogisms and Venn Diagrams**

**In Unit 5 we will learn how to analyze arguments made up of categorical propositions. These arguments, called syllogisms, are evaluated using Venn diagrams, mood, and figure to determine the validity of syllogisms.**

### **Objective:**

Translate categorical propositions and Venn Diagrams, use Venn diagrams to establish mood and figure, and use Venn Diagrams to evaluate syllogistic arguments for validity.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

There are three readings in Unit 5:

Module on Venn Diagrams <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/logic/intro.php> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Necessary and Sufficient Conditions <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/meaning/nsc.php> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike

Venn Diagrams [http://www.butte.edu/~wmwu/iLogic/2.5/iLogic\\_2\\_5.html](http://www.butte.edu/~wmwu/iLogic/2.5/iLogic_2_5.html) CC BY

Our video on Syllogisms and Venn Diagrams is:

Evaluating Arguments <https://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/critical-reasoning-for-beginners/id387875757?mt=10#ls=1> CC Oxford Open U

### **Activities:**

One Unit Quiz

At least 2 Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## **Logic and Research**

**In Unit 6 we will evaluate different types of research, and the concepts associated with creating a literature review for an argumentative research paper. We will discuss primary sources and secondary sources, and how to summarize argumentative positions in research articles.**

### **Objective:**

Evaluating peer-reviewed source material, writing from the perspective of argumentative essays and critiquing research based arguments.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

There are three readings in Unit 6:

Empire State College Information Skills Tutorial

<http://commons.esc.edu/informationkills/evaluate/>

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Noncommercial-Share Alike

Evaluating Internet Material by Boundless

<https://www.boundless.com/communications/textbooks/boundless-communications-textbook/topic-research-gathering-materials-and-evidence-8/internet-research-43/evaluating-internet-material-184-10644/?>

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Noncommercial-Share Alike

Finding the Good Argument; or Why Bother With Logic?

<http://www.parlorpress.com/pdf/jones--finding-the-good-argument.pdf> CC

### **Activities:**

One Short Writing Assignment (Dropbox)

One Unit Quiz

At least 2 Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit

## Logic and Research

In Unit 7 we will evaluate how argumentation is used in legal contexts. We will consider sample LSAT examination questions, and we will address how logic is an integral part of law school training. We will look at resources for persuasive writing as they could apply to legal argumentation in written briefs and in litigation.

### **Objective:**

Analyzing legal argumentation and sample LSAT questions, practicing persuasive writing and argumentation for litigation.

### **Readings and Multimedia**

There are three readings in Unit 7:

Logic for Law Students: How to Think Like a Lawyer

<http://lawreview.law.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/lawreview/article/view/117>

CC BY

Paralegal Alliance: The Law School Admissions Test "LSAT" – Arguments

<http://www.paralegalalliance.com/the-law-school-admissions-test-lsat-arguments/#axzz3GmtWGGvE>

CC BY

Paralegal Alliance: Writing to Persuade <http://www.paralegalalliance.com/writing-to-persuade/#axzz3GmtWGGvE>

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### **Activities:**

Final Exam

At least 2 Unit Discussion Topics

Self-Assessments, Short Multiple Choice Ungraded for Practice within the Unit