

Phil 102 – Critical Thinking and Reasoning(Fall 2016)	
Department of	Philosophy
College of	Liberal Arts
Instructor Name:	
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Snail Mail (U.S. Postal Service) Address:	Department of Philosophy University of Nevada, Las Vegas 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 455028 Las Vegas, NV 89154-5028 We are located in building #4 of the Central Desert Complex (CDC).
Office Hours:	
Course Abbreviation	Phil 102 (Critical Thinking and Reasoning)
Prerequisites:	Freshman standing
Required Text:	<p>1. Critical Thinking: The Art of Argument (2nd edition) Need to Buy this book</p> <p>by George W. Rainbolt , Sandra L. Dwyer</p> <p>Publisher: Cengage Learning; 2 edition (January 1, 2014)</p> <p>ISBN-10: 1285197194</p> <p>ISBN-13: 978-1285197197</p> <p>2. <u>RECOMMENDED READING (REFERENCE BOOK): You do NOT need to purchase this reference book. I may use it to supplement my teaching</u></p> <p>Critical Thinking (Sixth Edition) By Brooke Noel Moore & Richard Parker Publisher: Mayfield Pub Co; 6th Ed edition (2000) ISBN-10: 076741067X ISBN-13: 978-0767410670</p> <p>NOTE: Additional Material/Handouts may be assigned in class</p>
Access to Learning Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNLV Library: phone: (702) 895-2286; web: http://library.nevada.edu/ • University Bookstore: phone: (702)736-3955; web: http://unlv.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=19074&catalogId=10001
Course Overview:	
Introduction to the analysis and evaluation of actual arguments, to the practice of constructing logically sound arguments, and to logic as the theory of argument. Emphasizes arguments of current or general interest.	
Learning Outcomes of this course	
At the end of this course, the student will:	
1	Construct and present arguments as a form of critical thinking
2	Discuss how logic is important to argumentation and analyses
3	Explain critical thinking and reasoning as an inquiry that is relevant to your personal and professional lives
Course Evaluation Methods	

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Item	Value (points)
3 Exams at 100 points each	300 points
5 Class Quizzes at 20 points each	100 points
2 Homework Assignments at 25 points each	50 points
Term Paper	50 Points
Total:	500 points

Grade Determination:

A ($\geq 93\%$)	A- (90-92.99%)	B+ (87-89.99%)	B (83-86.99%)
B- (80-82.99%)	C+ (76-79.99%)	C (72-75.99%)	C- (70-71.99%)
D+ (66-68.99%)	D (62-65.99%)	D- (60-61.99%)	F ($< 60\%$)

Note: Final decimal percentages will be rounded off to the nearest integer before calculating the letter grades. For example, if the final course percentage is 92.8, it will be rounded off to 93% and the student will receive an A. Again, if the final course percentage is 92.2, it will be rounded off to 92% and the student will receive an A-.

Course Procedures

Web Campus

The course will use the web campus portal to supplement class teaching

Class Quizzes

- All class quizzes are individual (see calendar for the dates)
- If you miss a class quiz, you will need to provide a **valid and documented** excuse to make up, similar to the exam policy noted below.
- If you do not provide a valid excuse with proper documentation, you will not be able to get credit and/or make up the missed quiz.
- I reserve the right to decide on whether I will allow the makeup.

Homework Assignments:

There shall be 2 homework assignments. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

- Homeworks shall be due on the day assigned.
- If homework assignments are missed without the valid and documented reason then you will not be able to get credit for them and/or make them up.
- The policy for missed homework assignments is the same as the exam policy and the class assignments policy below.
- I reserve the right to decide on whether I will allow the makeup.

Term paper:

You will have a term paper due at the end of the semester. I will give you three topics (later in the semester) and you have to choose ONE.

- Term paper would be due at the end of semester (see course schedule below).
- It should be at least 5 pages (double-spaced) excluding cover page and references.
- Have a cover page.
- Should contain an introduction, body, your analyses, and conclusion
- References should be properly done
- This is an INDIVIDUAL assignment
- I am looking for originality in critical thinking; descriptive term papers will receive lower grades.
- Paper should be analytical in nature
- Worth 50 points.

Exams and Exam Policy

There are 3 exams (IN CLASS), including the final. All scheduled exams will be in the classroom.

- The exams are CLOSED BOOKS AND CLOSED NOTES.
- Exams may have MULTIPLE-CHOICE/TRUE FALSE/FILL IN THE BLANK questions, and OPEN ENDED ESSAY-TYPE questions
- Examinations will be administered during the scheduled days (please check course calendar)

- I reserve the right to decide on whether I will allow the makeup.
- All exams are individual components.

If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, then your grade in that exam will be zero. If an exam is missed, it is the student's responsibility to (a) contact the professor as soon as possible via email, telephone or in person, (b) produce a document describing the valid reason for having missed the exam. Examples of valid excuses are serious illness and participation in University sponsored events. If you miss an exam due to illness, a written excuse from a doctor is necessary. When you have to miss an exam due to participation in a University sponsored event, you must inform me prior to the exam and submit appropriate documentation to verify your claim. When you miss an exam for a valid reason, contact your professor with **valid documentation** within 7 days of the missed test. Your grade for that exam will be determined based on your average score from other exams. Only one missed exam may be substituted in this manner with valid excuse as indicated above. ***No makeup exams are ordinarily given.***

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright/statements.html>.

Student academic appeals policy

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) determines accommodations that are "reasonable" in promoting the equal access of a student reporting a disability to the general UNLV learning experience. In so doing, the DRC also balances instructor and departmental interests in maintaining curricular standards so as to best achieve a fair evaluation standard amongst students being assisted. In order for the DRC to be effective it must be considered in the dialog between the faculty and the student who is requesting accommodations. For this reason faculty should only provide students course adjustment after having received an "Academic Accommodation Plan." If faculty members have any questions regarding the DRC, they should call a DRC counselor.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>

Religious Holidays Policy

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could have been avoided. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching

The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<http://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<http://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades

The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

Rebelmail

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for additional information.

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library Statement

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discover, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

COURSE CALENDAR (Subject to change depending on our progress in the class)

Week	Date	Day	Chapters (Please read the chapters assigned before the class so that we can have a meaningful discussion in class; remember that exams may be based on the class discussions)	Quizzes/ Homeworks
Week 1	Aug 29	M	Syllabus	
	Aug 31	W	Introduction: What is Philosophy	
Week 2	Sep 5	M	Labor Day Holiday(No Class)	
	Sep 7	W	Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Arguments	
Week 3	Sep 12	M	Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Arguments	Quiz 1
	Sep 14	W	Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Arguments	
Week 4	Sep 19	M	Chapter 2: What Makes a Good Argument	
	Sep 21	W	Chapter 2: What Makes a Good Argument	
Week 5	Sep 26	M	Chapter 2: What Makes a Good Argument	
	Sep 28	W	Exam Review	Quiz 2/ HW 1 Due
Week 6	Oct 3	M	Exam 1	
	Oct 5	W	Chapter 3: Premises and Conclusions	
Week 7	Oct 10	M	Chapter 3: Premises and Conclusions	
	Oct 12	W	Chapter 3: Premises and Conclusions	
Week 8	Oct 17	M	Chapter 4: Language	Quiz 3
	Oct 19	W	Chapter 4: Language	
Week 9	Oct 24	M	Chapter 4: Language	
	Oct 26	W	Chapter 5: Propositional Arguments	
Week 10	Oct 31	M	Chapter 5: Propositional Arguments	
	Nov 2	W	Chapter 5: Propositional Arguments	
Week 11	Nov 7	M	Exam Review	Quiz 4/ HW 2 Due
	Nov 9	W	Exam 2	
Week 12	Nov 14	M	Chapter 5 continue	
	Nov 16	W	Chapter 6: Categorical Arguments	
Week 13	Nov 21	M	Chapter 6: Categorical Arguments	
	Nov 23	W	Chapter 6: Categorical Arguments	
Week 14	Nov 28	M	Chapter 9: Causal Arguments	Quiz 5
	Nov 30	W	Chapter 9: Causal Arguments	
Week 15	Dec 5	M	Chapter 10: Moral Arguments,	
	Dec 7	W	Course Review and wrap up	Term paper due
Week 16			Final Exam (Exam 3) (Date and Time to be announced later) FINAL EXAM IS CUMULATIVE	