

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION
PH 1250 Practical Logic (and Critical Thinking) (3)
UT (UA, UC, UL, KUC, CU, CUC, AU)
Year: 2010**

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Calendar Course Description

Elementary methods and principles for analysing arguments will be covered. Topics may include informal fallacies, introduction of scientific method, elementary statistical reasoning, elementary propositional logic, rational decision procedures.

Content Description

People in many roles put forward arguments to try to persuade their audiences. Advertisers, authors, lawyers, politicians, political analysts, researchers, scientists, participants in debates over moral issues, and many others strive to make their cases by presenting evidence in support of their conclusions. This course is an introduction to the careful, systematic evaluation of arguments and the language in which they are advanced. In addition to assessing the role of rhetoric and appeals to emotion, attention will be given to identifying components of arguments and discussing correct and flawed forms of arguments. Requirements for good deductive and inductive arguments, and appropriate use of statistics will be examined. A variety of fallacies in arguments will be explored.

Course Objectives:

- to learn how to identify the strengths and weakness of arguments as forms of reasoning
- to learn how to construct arguments of our own that provide strong support for the conclusions advanced, without committing errors of reasoning

Required Readings:

- Cederblom, Jerry and David W. Paulsen, Critical Reasoning: Understanding and Criticizing Arguments and Theories, 6th edition. Belmont, California: Wadsworth, 2006.
- Selected internet readings and handouts.

Course Requirements:

Argument assessment assignment.....	20%
Argumentative essay.....	20%
Midterm	30%
Final examination.....	30%

Conversion table for grading:

A+ 90 - 100	B+ 76 - 79	C+ 67 - 69	D+ 55 - 59
A 85 - 89	B 73 - 75	C 64 - 66	D 50 - 54
A- 80 - 84	B- 70 - 72	C- 60 - 63	F 0 - 49

Note: You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with College calendar information pertaining to cheating and plagiarism, for which there are a range of penalties, all significant (see pp. 49-50). Also note and observe key dates during the term.

Course Topics:

- I. Introduction
- II. Language and arguments
- III. Rhetoric and appeals to emotion
- IV. Informal fallacies
- V. Deductive arguments: validity and soundness
- VI. Inductive arguments
- VII. The use and misuse of statistics
- VIII. Other forms of arguments
- VIII. Assessment of arguments in advertising, the media, and social and political life