PHILOSOPHY 100 Fall 2007
Instructor: Moira Kloster Sections AB1, AB3

REASONING

COURSE OUTLINE

OBJECTIVES: This course develops your ability to observe, investigate, evaluate, and respond to real-world problems. Experience is not always the best teacher, and memory is not always the best guide. Philosophy offers reasoning techniques that improve your ability to negotiate the unfamiliar. It also helps you identify and understand the belief systems that lie behind disagreements.
You will practice dealing with real world problems and disagreements by objectively reporting arguments and evaluating them, by using listening skills to explore topics in discussion, and by comparing arguments to develop constructive recommendations on an issue that interests you. You will also apply what you learn to visual reasoning and to problem situations.

TEXT: *Think It Through: Reasoning in Everyday Life*, M. Kloster & A. Anderson, Thomson Nelson Canada (2005), required.

EVALUATION: The classes contain a minimum of lecture and a maximum of discussion and other activities: critical thinking takes practice. Class participation, in the form of notes from in-class activities, forms part of the final mark. There will also be 5 short (1-2 page) written exercises, one 4-page comparison of arguments, a midterm, and a final examination.

Distribution of marks:

5 in-class activities	5%
5 short written assignments, 10% each	50%
Midterm examination	10%
Mini-project (comparing arguments)	15%
Final examination	20%

Marking scheme: A+ = 87% and over. A = 84-86%. A- = 80-83%. B+ = 77-79%. B = 74-76%. B- = 70-73%. C+ = 67-69%. C = 64-66%. C- = 60-63%. P given only in exceptional circumstances. In-class-exercises are not graded: completion = 1/1.

EXPECTATIONS: Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Notes, announcements, and handouts are available only in class. Missed assignments and some missed activities can be made up, but only after consultation with the instructor. It is ***your*** responsibility to contact me promptly if you must miss a class or need help with an assignment; it is my responsibility to find a reasonable way to help you catch up and get past your difficulties. **Participation:** In-class activities often require participation in small group discussion: active contribution to these activities is expected Respectful behaviour is required: philosophy can often involve sensitive topics and evoke very strong feelings. **Assignments and marking**: Assignments must be easy to read: legible, and laid out clearly on the page. Assignments in the first half of the term which score less than 6/10 may be revised without penalty. Other assignments may be revised by special arrangement. Late papers are accepted provided a mutually acceptable alternate deadline has been arranged.

OFFICE HOURS: Office: Abb. D3091. Office hours will be announced in class. I am also available by phone and e-mail (phone numbers and e-mail address given in class).

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OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1: Jan 9, 11	The uses and limits of reasoning – and how is this course "philosophy"? READING: Introduction of *Think it Through*
Week 2: Jan. 16, 18	An overview, with pictures: Observation, investigation, evaluation, and action READING: Ch.1, *Think it Through*
Week 3: Jan 23, 25	Understanding and reporting arguments READING: Chapter 2 of *Think it Through*
Week 4: Jan 30, Feb. 1	Background investigation and evaluating credibility of information READING: Chapters 4 and 7 of *Think it Through*
Week 5: Feb. 6, 8	Argument structure and logical connections READING: Chapter 5 of *Think it Through* (to page 174 only)
Week 6: Feb. 13, 15	Arguments in context: main issues and assumptions READING: Chapter 6 of *Think it Through*
Week 7: Feb. 20, 22	***Section AB1 (Tues): NO CLASS – reading break*** ***Section AB3 (Thurs): MIDTERM*** *(in class)* - reviews weeks 1-5
Week 8: Feb. 26, Mar. 1	***Section AB1 (Tues): Midterm*** *(in class)* - reviews weeks 1-5 **Both sections**: Evaluating arguments READING: Chapter 8 of *Think it Through*
Week 9: Mar. 6, 8	Comparing arguments to judge progress on an issue, and responding to arguments READING: Chapters 9 and 11 of *Think it Through*
Week 10: Mar. 13, 15	Practical suggestions, problem-solving, and feedback READINGS: Chapters 10 and Postscript of *Think it Through*
Week 11: Mar. 20, 22	Evaluating information, including visual, numerical, and auditory information READING: Chapters 7 and 9 of *Think it Through*
Week 12: Mar. 26, 29	Evaluating emotions as reasons READING: Chapter 9 of *Think it Through*
Week 13: Apr. 3, 5	Applications of critical thinking to solving problems and to working with people from different backgrounds, cultures and disciplines READING: Chapter 12 of *Think it Through*
Weeks 14-15	*Final exam* as scheduled