

Philosophy 100 (CH2)/ Fall 2011/Wed. 2:30-5:20 Room: D236

Instructor: Anastasia Anderson

Phone: ext. 2558

Email: anastasia.anderson@ufv.ca (*This is the quickest way to reach me.*)

Office hours:

Abbotsford: Mondays, 12:45-1:45 (Room D3087)

Chilliwack: Wednesdays, 12:45-1:45 (Room A102M)

Feel free to drop by my office during office hours. If you can't make it to my office during the above office hours, please contact me for an appointment.

REASONING: AN ESSENTIAL HUMAN ACTIVITY

You are already a critical thinker. In other words, you don't believe everything you are told. You look for good reasons and arguments before you accept claims. This course is designed to make you a superior critical thinker. You will learn how to identify issues and analyse arguments, how to determine whether or not an argument is good or poor, and how to avoid being fooled by misleading language and common fallacies. Moreover, you will learn how to construct good and persuasive arguments for the claims that you want to make. Critical thinking is a skill we need in every facet of our lives and the better you are at thinking critically the deeper your understanding will be of any issue you may face.

Required Text:

Think it Through: Reasoning in Everyday Life by M. Kloster and A. Anderson (available at the UFV Chilliwack bookstore)

Evaluation:

Two assignments: 20% and 25%

Two Midterm Exams: 10% and 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Late Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted unless I have granted you an extension **before** the due date. **ALL** assignments are due **IN CLASS** on the assigned date. Assignments left at faculty reception or emailed will not be accepted unless you have made special arrangements with me.

UCFV's Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of student conduct. Students should be aware that UCFV has policies regarding academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating. The policy defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism occurs when a student presents work or data as original when part, or whole, was written or composed by someone other than the student.

Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or ideas within the work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author.

When an instructor has evidence of plagiarism or cheating by a student, the instructor is entitled to assign a score of zero with the first incident, and to issue a written notice that any further incident will result in the student being required to withdraw from the course. With any further incidents of plagiarism or cheating, the student may be required to withdraw formally from the course.

Use of Technology in the Classroom:

Please do not answer phone calls or text during class. Use of a laptop is permitted, but only for taking notes and not for social networking, instant messaging, playing games, watching movies, or any other non-course related activity.

Schedule of readings

The following is a tentative schedule of readings and assignments. Because each class works at its own pace, I reserve the right to change the schedule.

- Sept. 7 Introduction to the course/ Is there a duty to reason well?
Recommended (but not required) reading available as links on MyUFV course website.
- Sept. 14 The role of observation/ Rhetoric/ Defining ‘truth’
(Objectivity, Rhetoric vs. Reason, Slanters, theories of truth)
Reading: Introduction and Ch.1
- Sept. 21 Theories of Truth (cont.) and Rational belief/ Identifying Arguments
(Defining some important terms, Distinguishing Arguments from non-arguments)
Reading: Ch. 2
- Sept. 28 Identifying Arguments in context/ Explanations and evaluating explanations
Reading: *Bring in a letter to the editor or short article that contains an argument. We will be doing group work based on the piece of writing.*
- Oct. 5 Reporting arguments
(Standard form, sub-arguments, diagrams)
Reading: Ch.2 (please read it again!)
First Assignment Due (20%)
- Oct. 12 Types of Argument and Argument patterns
Reading: Chapter 5 (pages 144- 184)
- Oct. 19 ***Midterm I (20%)***
- Oct. 26 Missing Premises and Using the Principle of Charity/ Informal Fallacies
Reading: Ch. 5 (pages 184-189)

- Nov. 2 Interpreting Images and Sentences
(Ambiguity, Vagueness, Definition, and Images)
Please bring a magazine ad that relies on the image to sell the product.
Reading: Most of Ch. 3 (pages 88-104)
Section on Images in Ch.9 (pages 267-272)
- Nov. 9 Investigating and Responding to Sentences
(Generalizations, Assumptions, Issues and Sub-Issues)
Reading: End of Ch. 3 (pages 104-114) and Ch. 6
- Nov. 16 **Midterm II (10%)/** Writing Issue Responses and Evaluating Information Claims
Reading: Ch. 7
- Nov. 23 Evaluating Arguments
Reading: Ch. 8
- Nov. 30 Evaluating Arguments (cont.) and the role of emotion
Reading: Ch. 9
Assignment Due (25%)