

**Reasoning  
PHIL 100 – MI1  
Fall 2011**

**Room MID 245 R 7:00 pm – 9:50 pm**

**Instructor:** Ethan Davis

**Office:** D3091

**Office Hours:** T 3:30 – 3:50

**Phone:**

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**Required Text:** Lewis Vaughn & Chris MacDonald, The Power of Critical Thinking, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian edition, Oxford University Press.

**Course Description:** We will learn about arguments: how to recognize one, how to know if it's a "good" one, how to identify (and avoid) common fallacies (mistakes) in argumentation, and how to construct rationally persuasive arguments.

**Testing and Grading:** Your best four out of five tests totaling 80%  
Final Exam (cumulative): 20%

The lowest score you receive from one of the five tests will be dropped automatically. Thus, each test is worth 20% of your grade. **The final exam cannot be dropped.** There are no make-up tests. If you miss one of the five tests, you will receive a score of zero, which will be dropped automatically when you have taken the other four tests. It is your responsibility to come to class at the scheduled time to take each of the tests.

**Attendance:** Attendance will not count toward your grade. However, I strongly urge you to come to class. We will cover material not explicit in the text. Also, you are responsible for all tests.

**Assignments:** Exercises will be assigned (but not graded) on a regular basis, as the best way to learn the material and to perform well on the tests is through practice. **Learn by doing.** Completing the homework and knowing what areas present the most problems will also enable us to make the most of class time by focusing on those areas.

**Plagiarism (Academic dishonesty) Policy:** Plagiarism is defined as a student "submitting the words, ideas, images or data of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project or assignment in a course or program of study." Plagiarism amounts to cheating: it is a serious academic offence, and will be dealt with accordingly in this course.

**Tentative Schedule:** Introduction, ch.1, **test 1**, ch.3 (1<sup>st</sup> half), **test 2**, ch.3 (2<sup>nd</sup> half), **test 3**, ch.5, **test 4**, tba, **test 5**.

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	A+	95% & above	C+	65% - 69%
	A	90% - 94%	C	60% - 64%
	A-	85% - 89%	C-	55% - 59%
	B+	80% - 84%	P	50% - 54%
	B	75% - 79%	F	49% & below
	B-	70% - 74%		