PHIL 125E - Practical Logic
3 Credits, 3 hours

Practical Logic refers to the elementary methods and principles for analyzing, evaluating and constructing arguments. The course will focus on theory, explaining the core concepts and theoretical tools necessary for proper philosophical reasoning. This theoretical study will provide an introduction to formal notation, syllogism, informal fallacies, definitions and common argument forms. The course will also include instruction in the practical use of logic by explaining the skills and procedures used in sound argumentation. This practical exercise will provide basic instruction in writing arguments, evaluating media and applying diagnostic methods to reasoning as it occurs in contemporary debates.

No prerequisites are required for this course.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Tuesdays   1:00pm – 3:00pm
Thursdays   1:00pm – 3:00am
Fridays   1:00pm – 2:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Mondays   6:30pm – 9:30pm
Wednesdays   6:30pm-9:30pm

Required Resources

Jerome E. Bickenbach and Jacqueline M. Davies, Good Reasons for Better Arguments: An Introduction to the Skills and Values of Critical Thinking, (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 1997

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Make important technical distinctions in regard to language and arguments.

- Interpret and critically assess important texts and arguments.

- Identify different forms of reasoning and fallacies.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of four exams. The first three exams will only cover new material, but the final exam will be cumulative. These exams will be both content and skill based, and an outline for each exam will be provided before the exam.

First Exam	14 May	15%
Second Exam	28 May	20%
Third Exam	6 June	25%
Final Exam	18 June	40%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory **Progression**	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor **Minimum Pass**	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

1. **Critical Thinking: What and Why**

   1.1   What's in a Name?
   1.2   Critical Thinking and the Search for Good Reasons
   1.3   Who's to Say What a Good Reason Is?
   1.4   Good Reasons, Better Arguments and Rationality
   1.5   Rational Discourse: Giving Reasons

2. **Arguments**

   2.1   Argument Structure and Construction
   2.2   The Argument: Form and Function
   2.3   Arguments and Non-arguments
   2.4   Units of Meaning
   2.5   Standard Form for Simple Arguments
   2.6   Enthymemes and the Principle of Charity

2.7   Standard Form for Complex Arguments
2.8   Expressing Yourself in Argument Form

3. Language

3.1   Definitions: Explaining Meaning
3.2   Definitions: Arguing Meaning
3.3   Understanding Conditionals and the Relationship of Implication
3.4   Language and the Gap between Intention and Communication

4. Good Arguments

4.1   Evaluating Arguments
4.2   Arguments, Arguers and Conclusions: Where to Start Your Evaluation
4.3   Acceptability
4.4   Relevance
4.5   Sufficiency

5. Bad Arguments

5.1   Fallacy Spotting and Building a Better Argument
           Specific Fallacies will be the focus, and relevant pages given in the lecture(s)

6. Deduction

6.1   The Three Modes of Argumentation
6.2   Validity
6.3   Categorical Logic
6.4   Immediate Inferences
6.5   Syllogisms
6.6   Propositional Logic
           Valid Deductive Arguments
6.7   The Strengths and Weaknesses of Deduction

7. Induction

7.1   Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments, Fourth Edition*, pp.9-17, 31-36.

8. Intellectual Character

8.1   Paul, "Critical Thinking, Moral Integrity and Citizenship: Teaching for the Intellectual Virtues," pp.255-267.

Performance Requirements

Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss

the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Text Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.