

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016/2017

Philosophy 1200 (650): Critical Thinking (Online)

Full year 2016/2017

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Description

This course teaches a basic set of skills that will improve your ability to think clearly and rationally. It will help you avoid fallacies and inconsistencies, uncover implicit assumptions, and become aware of your own biases. These skills will help you identify and assess claims and arguments, such as those encountered in your coursework, in conversation, and online.

The course has a strong focus on hands on practice with immediate feedback. This is facilitated by its unique combination of online resources, including reading modules, online presentations, practice exercises, assignments, and weekly tutorials over live chat (tutorial times will be scheduled during the first week of class).

Objectives

This course aims to teach students to

- identify, understand, and evaluate claims and arguments,
- understand the difference between different types of claims and arguments,
- depict the structure of statements and arguments using symbolic and graphical tools,
- recognize rational and non-rational influences on belief formation, including biases,