

Luther College University of Regina  
Department of Philosophy and Classics  
Critical Thinking (Philosophy 150-L70)  
Summer 2017

Instructor: Jeffrey Vancha  
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**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the practice of Critical Thinking in general and in particular the art of reasoning. The art of reasoning includes, among other types of reasoning, the discipline of logic and scientific and moral forms of reasoning. Students can expect to become versed in such an art by using these types of reasoning in meaningful and significant contexts, even life situations. The course strives to make meaningful the principles of critical thinking and logic by involving students in tackling issues and problems that cut across disciplines but are also recognizable in the domains of mass media, politics and popular culture.

**Text: The Power of Critical Thinking**, Vaughn and Macdonald, 4th Canadian edition. Interactive and relevant to Canadians, as well as widely accessible, this text is chalk full of exercises and utilizes a student study website. Please see my website for a link to this site.

**Course Requirements:**

<b>2 short assignments-----30%</b>
Over the course of the term 2 assignments will be dispensed on my website. These will be composed of 15 questions from any of the exercises and quizzes in the text. Each is worth 1 mark. Students will have 1 week to complete these. Consult the Course Outline, appearing shortly on my website, for likely dates. Please work on these independently!
<b>2 Field Problems ----- 10%</b>
These problems derive from the textbook and will be not be marked, but if incomplete or if no student effort, some deductions could occur. Some of the problems could and most likely will be slightly altered. These problems will be posted on my website. Due dates are to be determined. Most likely, they will be posted quite early and they will be accepted as late as the last day of class meeting. Students are required to hand in both at the same time and fastened together. August 17 <sup>th</sup> is the last day we meet.
<b>Midterm exam-----25%</b>
This exam will be written in class during the midterm period. Date is to be determined in consultation with the entire class but likely it will occur the last week of July or first week of August. Students should consult the Course Outline for possible dates. Questions will be either derived from the textbook exercises or quizzes or created by the instructor. Students will be provided a document to help them prepare for the exam. This is a mandatory requirement. If students do not write this, they will receive a grade of NP.
<b>Final Examination----- 35%</b>
This examination is scheduled in-class for August 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 8:00 a.m. Students do not need to pass this exam to pass the course, but they need to write it or they will receive an NP for the course.

Students will access the assignments, keys and exam preparation documents from my website. Also, students are advised to consult my website for policies that are implicitly part of this syllabus. Special needs students should arrange to see me as soon as possible.