



PHIX137

Critical Thinking

S3 OUA 2017

Dept of Philosophy

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

OUA Convenor

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By arrangement

Tutor

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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit aims to teach the fundamentals of critical thinking and reasoning. Students will learn how to construct, analyse and critically evaluate arguments, how to detect common fallacies in reasoning and how to think logically and creatively. We teach these skills by developing practical techniques for the evaluation of reasoning, and applying them to arguments from business, law, science, politics, philosophy and the media. Critical thinking skills are invaluable across all disciplines, and will benefit you in academic contexts and in life beyond university. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.

Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.

Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.

Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.

Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

General Assessment Information

Assessments are to be submitted through Turnitin, and will be electronically checked for plagiarism. They will be marked and returned via Grademark. For information about these tools, see:

http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm

There is no need for a coversheet - the iLearn assignment submission (Turnitin) involves declaring your details and honesty in submitting your work. Please note, we do not accept submission by email attachment.

Extensions and Special Consideration

Requests for extensions must, normally, be made in writing before the due date. Extensions of up to 3 days can be granted by your convenor if reasonable grounds are given, and some written documentation can be produced. Work load from other units, or from employment, are not considered reasonable justification.

Requests for extensions of more than 3 days should be submitted as a Special Consideration request through the ask.mq.edu.au portal. Your request should be accompanied by appropriate documentation, such as a medical certificate. Please see the [Special Consideration Policy](#) for further details. Read the policy closely as your request may be turned down if you have not followed procedure, or if you have not submitted a request in a timely manner.

Penalties for late submission

A penalty of 10% per week or part thereof will be applied for submissions after the due date, or after the date to which an extension has been given. No work will be accepted more than three weeks late.

Academic Honesty

In Philosophy, academic honesty is taken very seriously. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own may be grounds for referral to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee. If you have questions about how to properly cite work or how to credit sources, please talk to one of the teaching staff and see also the Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Submission times

All times referred to in due dates are Sydney time (Australian Eastern Daylight time, UTC+11).

See the "Policies and Procedures" section below for more detail about relevant policies.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Weekly online quizzes	30%	No	Weekly (see below)
Mid Session Assessment	25%	No	11.59pm, Sunday 31/12
Final Assessment	30%	No	11.59pm, Friday 26/1
Participation	15%	No	Weeks 1-5, IAT due week 4

Weekly online quizzes

Due: **Weekly (see below)**

Weighting: **30%**

The online quizzes are five 20 minute multiple-choice quizzes which you will take through the unit website. You can make one attempt only on each quiz. They are timed, and cannot be paused once you start.

The quiz on each week's content will open at 9am on Monday of the relevant week, and will remain open until the **Wednesday** of the following week. For example, the quiz for week 1 will be open from 9am on Monday of week 1, and will close at midnight on Wednesday of week 2. You can see the relevant dates by clicking on the "Quizzes" link in iLearn. (*NOTE: We suggest you complete each quiz during the relevant week, because the unit moves quickly and this is a good way to keep on track, but it is left open until the following Wednesday to allow you some flexibility*). Each quiz contains six questions, and is worth 6 marks.

The criterion for assessment will be understanding of the unit content, as demonstrated by the correct selection of answers in a multiple choice quiz.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Mid Session Assessment

Due: **11.59pm, Sunday 31/12**

Weighting: **25%**

The mid-semester task involves exercises similar to those that you will have been completing for revision in the first two weeks of the course. You will be required to answer all questions. This task will be assessed on students' ability to adequately demonstrate the skills involved in: recognising and standardising arguments and accurately identifying and understanding the key features of inductive and deductive reasoning.

The exercises with solutions in the content for weeks 1 and 2 may be taken as sample of what is expected in this task.

Please note that this assignment is due on New Year's Eve, during the mid-semester break. However, the assessment covers content from weeks 1 and 2, so you should be able to finish it and submit it in week 3, before the mid-semester break, if you would prefer to do so. Christmas and New Year's celebrations will not be considered grounds for an extension.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Final Assessment

Due: **11.59pm, Friday 26/1**

Weighting: **30%**

The written assignment requires you evaluate and respond to a piece of written text, using all the skills you have been developing in the unit. It will require a broad standardisation and a 1500-2000 words response. Resources will be made available in iLearn.

Criteria for assessment include accuracy of standardisation, clarity of analysis, and strength of argumentation. A specific and detailed rubric will be available in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.

- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Participation

Due: **Weeks 1-5, IAT due week 4**

Weighting: **15%**

The website for this unit contains a lot of resources designed to help you get the most out of the course material. The skills you will be developing in this unit require practice, so the exercises and activities provided are an important component on your work in this unit. To get the most out of the unit, you are expected to engage with these resources on a regular basis. Because of the importance of regular active engagement, you will be awarded participation marks for engagement.

The marks for the participation component of your assessment in this unit will be made up of two components:

10% will be based on your engagement with the unit resources. A rubric and full details of this assessment will be available in the 'Assessment and Guides' block in iLearn.

5% will be awarded for your completion of and reflection on a Harvard Implicit Association test (You'll learn more about these in Week 3). You will need to complete a simple online test designed to measure implicit biases and then answer some short questions reflecting on the findings of your test. These are to be submitted through iLearn by midnight on Sunday of week 4. If you make a serious attempt at this task and submit it on time, you will be awarded the 5 marks available for this part of the assessment.

Discussion forum participation, while encouraged, is not assessed in this unit.

The criterion for participation assessment is engagement, as demonstrated by your making a serious attempt at the relevant tasks

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Delivery and Resources

PHIX137 is delivered through the unit *iLearn* site, which contains a wide range of resources including lectures, course notes, exercises with solutions, online discussion facilities and so on. You are expected to keep up with the unit material on a weekly basis, making use of the facilities available, and are strongly encouraged to seek help from your tutor or convenor if you are having any problems. Many of you will be taking this as one of your first units, and we are keen to support you to make it as useful and enjoyable an experience as possible.

All students are encouraged to make use of the discussion facilities within the iLearn site to discuss course material. The discussion forum will be monitored by your tutor, who will try to

answer questions as needed, but we encourage you all to help each other out on the board as well.

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks, as detailed above.

Please remember that as the Session 3 unit is run intensively, you will need to allow at least twice as much time to work on it as you would for an ordinary unit. In most weeks, two ordinary weeks of content are covered in one week. If you find you are having trouble, please contact one of the teaching staff.

Unit Schedule

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS
Week 1	4/12-10/12	Introduction and standardisation (Topics 1 and 2)
Week 2	11/12 – 17/12	Deductive and Inductive Reasoning (Topics 3 and 4)
Week 3	18/12 – 24/12	Critical Thinking and the Human Mind (Topics 5 to 7)
<i>2 week mid-semester break (25/12 – 7/1)</i>		
Week 4	8/1 – 14/1	The Power of language and rhetoric (Topics 8 and 9)
Week 5	15/1 – 21/1	Pseudo-Reasoning (Topics 10 and 11)
Week 6	22/1 – 26/1	Assessment-writing week. There is no new content this week. Topic 12 contains a worked sample assignment, with guidance for completing the assignment which is due on Friday.

Policies and Procedures

Late Submission - applies unless otherwise stated elsewhere in the unit guide

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more

than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Extension Request

Special Consideration Policy and Procedure **(<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>)**

The University recognises that students may experience events or conditions that adversely affect their academic performance. If you experience serious and unavoidable difficulties at exam time or when assessment tasks are due, you can consider applying for Special Consideration.

You need to show that the circumstances:

1. were serious, unexpected and unavoidable
2. were beyond your control
3. caused substantial disruption to your academic work
4. substantially interfered with your otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of the unit requirements
5. lasted at least three consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period and prevented completion of an assessment task scheduled for a specific date.

If you feel that your studies have been impacted submit an application as follows:

1. Visit [Ask MQ](#) and use your OneID to log in
2. Fill in your relevant details
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'Browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'Submit Form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

Outcome

Once your submission is assessed, an appropriate outcome will be organised.

OUA Specific Policies and Procedures

Withdrawal from a unit after the census date

You can withdraw from your subjects prior to [the census date](#) (last day to withdraw). If

you successfully withdraw before the census date, you won't need to apply for Special Circumstances. If you find yourself unable to withdraw from your subjects before the census date - you might be able to [apply for Special Circumstances](#). If you're eligible, we can refund your fees and overturn your fail grade.

If you're studying Single Subjects using FEE-HELP or paying up front, you can [apply online](#).

If you're studying a degree using HECS-HELP, you'll need to [apply directly to Macquarie University](#).

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study

strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment
- Participation

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment
- Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Final Assessment
- Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that

structure in a clear, standardised form.

- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication

technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Construct your own well-reasoned arguments.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly online quizzes
- Mid Session Assessment
- Final Assessment

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment tasks

- Final Assessment
- Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To learn how to recognise the structure of arguments, and how to represent that structure in a clear, standardised form.
- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear standardised form.
- Apply your critical analysis skills to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment task

- Final Assessment

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
27/11/2017	1. Change to policy name (Disruption to Studies Policy is now Special Consideration Policy) 2. Change to due date for final assessment 3. Change to late submission penalty
24/11/2017	1. Change to policy name (Disruption to Studies Policy is now Special Consideration Policy) 2. Change to due date for final assessment 3. Change to late submission penalty