PHIL1037

Critical Thinking

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of Philosophy

Contents

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
Convenor
Alexander Gillett
alexander.gillett@mq.edu.au

Convenor
Jennifer Duke-Yonge
jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au

Lecturer
Albert Atkin
albert.atkin@mq.edu.au

Details of other staff members, and information about consultation times, will be available in iLearn.

Credit points
10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit aims to teach the fundamentals of critical thinking and reasoning. Students 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 students in academic contexts and in life beyond university.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

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

ULO1: Recognise the structure of arguments, and represent that structure in a clear standardised form.

ULO2: Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.

ULO3: Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear and standardised form.

ULO4: Construct well-reasoned arguments of your own.

ULO5: Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

General Assessment Information

Detailed assessment information and rubrics

Detailed information about each of the assessments, including rubrics and submission instructions will be available in the Assessment block in iLearn. Please make sure you read the assessment information carefully, watch the Guide to Assessment video, and post a message in the relevant Assessment forum if you have any questions.

Special Consideration

Requests for extensions should be submitted via a Special Consideration request, which is available in the http://ask.mq.edu.au portal. Your request should be submitted no later than five days after the due date and should be accompanied by appropriate documentation. Please see https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration for further details and instructions. Read this information 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. The Macquarie University Special Consideration Policy can be found at the end of this document.

Late Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – **10 marks out of 100 credit will be deducted per day** for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven days (incl. weekends) after the original submission date.

Academic Integrity

In Philosophy, academic honesty is taken very seriously, and a range of methods, including but not restricted to the use of Turnitin, are used to detect plagiarism. 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 ask the convenor for help and see also the Academic Integrity Policy https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/academic-integrity

Note: All assignments in this unit are individual assignments. Collusion (unauthorised collaboration on individual assignments) is a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy.

This includes sharing or making use of shared assignments, in person or online. If in doubt, contact a member of teaching staff.

A helpful resource if you would like to know more about referencing and avoiding plagiarism is Macquarie's Academic Integrity Module, available here: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/skills-development. You will need to complete this Module before accessing the unit content, if you have not already done so. More information is available in iLearn.

Academic Writing and Study Support

Macquarie University offers a number of services to help with academic writing, referencing and study skills. For details, see: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/skills/assignments

For information about policies related to Assessment, see *Policies and Procedures* section below.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Engagement	10%	No	Ongoing
Personal Argument	25%	No	23:59, Sunday 10/4/22
Peer Review	10%	No	23:59, Sunday 1/5/22
Online Quizzes	20%	No	Quiz 1 - 23:59, Sun 20/3/22; Quiz 2 -23:59, Sun 29/5/22;
Final Scenario Report	35%	No	23:59, Friday 3/6/22

Online Engagement

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 18 hours
Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **10%**

Students will review their understanding of particular topics by participating in short online "self assessment" and engagement tasks.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and 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 and standardised form.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of your own.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Personal Argument

Assessment Type [1]: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **23:59, Sunday 10/4/22**
Weighting: **25%**

A short reflective task in which you will represent and reflect on a short argument on a socially significant issue.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Peer Review

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 4 hours
Due: **23:59, Sunday 1/5/22**
Weighting: **10%**

You will review the anonymised arguments (from the Personal Argument assignment) of some of your fellow students. You will answer a series of multiple choice questions about each of these arguments, and give a short comment on each paper. Your mark will be determined by how well you review fits with those of your peers and online tutors.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Appraise the arguments of others and represent them in a clear and standardised form.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

Online Quizzes

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Quiz 1 - 23:59, Sun 20/3/22; Quiz 2 -23:59, Sun 29/5/22;**
Weighting: **20%**

Online multiple-choice quizzes which you will take through the unit website.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Differentiate between types of reasoning and the methods of evaluation appropriate to each.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of your own.

Final Scenario Report

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **23:59, Friday 3/6/22**
Weighting: **35%**

The Final Scenario Report assignment requires you use all the skills you have acquired throughout the course from Topics 1-12 to write a report analysing an argument and providing guidance and material for a counter-response.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise the structure of arguments, and 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 and standardised form.
- Construct well-reasoned arguments of your own.
- Apply the skills of critical analysis to arguments from a variety of contexts and disciplines.

---

[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lectures

Lectures will be delivered live on campus from 4-6pm on Monday of each week, repeated on Tuesday at 2-4pm. All lectures are held in the Macquarie Theatre (21 Wally's Walk). Internal students are encouraged to attend one of these lectures each week, but lectures will also be streamed and recorded for online students, and those unable to attend. **You should attend or watch the lectures before engaging in tutorial discussion and activities each week.** Further instructions about accessing the lectures will be available in iLearn.

Online Engagement

At the beginning of semester, you will be assigned to an online participation group with a member of the teaching staff as a Tutor/Online Engagement Group leader. You will be expected to use self-assessments for understanding and contribute to your online group about assigned material. This will all be made available to you through the course web-site. See the Online Engagement information in iLearn for information about the assessment of Online Engagement in this unit.

Course Texts

The Course Notes available through the PHIL/PHIX 1037 ilearn site constitute a text for the course. No other text is required.

Teaching staff consultation times

Teaching staff will be available for regular consultation times throughout the week, on campus and on Zoom. See iLearn for details. You are strongly encouraged to make use of these consultation times, if you are having any trouble or if you would like to discuss the unit content.

Unit Webpages and E-Resources

This unit is delivered online through iLearn (http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). PC and Internet access are required. Basic computer skills (e.g., internet browsing) and skills in word processing are also a

requirement. Please consult teaching staff for any further, more specific requirements.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 (week beginning 21/2)	Introduction to Critical Thinking	
Week 2 (w/b 28/2)	Building and Representing Arguments	
Week 3 (w/b 7/3)	Deconstructing Arguments	
Week 4 (w/b 14/3)	Types of arguments (I)	Online Quiz 1 due Sunday 20/3
Week 5 (w/b 21/3)	Types of arguments (II)	
Week 6 (w/b 28/3)	Critical Thinking and the Human Mind	
Week 7 (w/b 4/4)	The Impact of Cognitive Biases	Reflective Writing Task due Sunday 10/4
	Mid-semester break: 11/4 – 24/4	
Week 8 (w/b 25/4)	The Language We Use: the power to persuade *(There will be no Monday lecture this week due to the ANZAC Day holiday. Please attend or watch the Tuesday lecture)*	Peer Review Task due Sunday 1/5
Week 9 (w/b 2/5)	The Language We Use: When words lead us astray	
Week 10 (w/b 9/5)	The Rules of Engagement	
Week 11 (w/b 16/5)	When the Rules are Abandoned: Pseudo-reasoning and fallacies	
Week 12 (w/b 23/5)	Putting it all together: An extended example	Online Quiz 2 due Sunday 29/5

Week 13 (w/b 30/5)	No lectures: assignment writing week	Final Scenario Report due Friday 3/6

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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.