



# PHIL1037

## Critical Thinking

Session 3, Online-flexible 2022

*Department 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

Unit Convenor

Thomas Corbin

[thomas-alexander.corbin@mq.edu.au](mailto:thomas-alexander.corbin@mq.edu.au)

Consultation by arrangement

Contact details and consultation times for other teaching staff 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 Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted**, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) **will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.**

### 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, including through file-sharing websites. 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
<a href="#">Online Quizzes</a>	20%	No	11.55pm, 23/12/2022 (Quiz 1) 27/01/2023 (Quiz 2)
<a href="#">Personal Argument</a>	25%	No	11.55pm, Tuesday 3/01/2023
<a href="#">Peer Review</a>	10%	No	11:55pm, Wednesday 18/1/2023
<a href="#">Final Scenario Report</a>	35%	No	11.55pm, Monday 23/01/2023
<a href="#">Online Engagement</a>	10%	No	11.55pm, Wednesday 25/01/2023

### Online Quizzes

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **11.55pm, 23/12/2022 (Quiz 1) 27/01/2023 (Quiz 2)**

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.

## Personal Argument

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **11.55pm, Tuesday 3/01/2023**

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 <sup>1</sup>: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 4 hours

Due: **11:55pm, Wednesday 18/1/2023**

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.

## Final Scenario Report

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 40 hours

Due: **11.55pm, Monday 23/01/2023**

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.

## Online Engagement

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 18 hours

Due: **11.55pm, Wednesday 25/01/2023**

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.
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 in this unit will be delivered online.

Two one-hour lecture videos for each of the 12 topics will be released through the Echo 360 block in iLearn. You should watch these videos before joining the relevant forums.

Please note, that since this is an intensive subject, we will be doing between 2 - 3 topics per week (for a total of 5 weeks), meaning each week will contain between 4 - 6 hours of required lecture content.

### Online Participation

At the beginning of semester, you will be assigned to an online participation group with a member of the teaching staff as an On-line 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. If you would like advice on supplementary texts, contact the convenors.

### Teaching staff consultation times

Teaching staff will be available for regular consultation times throughout the week. 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

Please note that in Semester three this unit is offered only in an **intensive** form, which means that we will be covering a normal semesters worth of content in a condensed period of time. We will be looking at 12 topics over a 5 week period, and so each week we will be looking at 2 or 3 topics. This makes this unit somewhat demanding in terms of time and effort, but also extremely rewarding in terms of the knowledge and understanding gained in a relatively short period of time. Please plan your time carefully, particularly if you have other commitments over the holiday period.

<b>Week 1: Introduction and Standardisation</b> (starting 12th of December)		
Topic 1	Introduction to Critical Thinking	
Topic 2	Building and Representing Arguments	
Topic 3	Deconstructing Arguments	
<b>Week 2: Deductive and Inductive Arguments</b> (starting 19th of December)		
Topic 4	Deductive Arguments	
Topic 5	Inductive Arguments	
	<b>Mid-semester break</b>	
<b>Week 3: Critical Thinking and the Human Mind</b> (starting 3rd of January)		
Topic 6	Critical Thinking and the Human Mind	
Topic 7	The Impact of Cognitive Biases	
<b>Week 4: Language and Rhetoric</b> (starting 9th of January)		
Topic 8	The Language We Use: the power to persuade	



Topic 9	The Language We Use: When words lead us astray	
<b>Week 5: Pseudo-Reasoning and Fallacies</b> (starting 16th of January)		
Topic 10	The Rules of Engagement	
Topic 11	When the Rules are Abandoned: Pseudo-reasoning and fallacies	
Topic 12	Putting it all together: An extended example	
<b>Week 6</b> (starting 23rd of January)		
Topic 13	No lectures: Final assignment week	

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
06/12/2022	The peer review submission deadline has been altered from the 11th of January to the 18th of January.