



PHIL1037

Critical Thinking

Session 3, Online-flexible 2023

Department of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Hoda Mostafavi

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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

**Note that the Session 3 offering of PHIL/PHIX1037 is an intensive (accelerated) unit of only five teaching weeks, and the course load is identical to the standard 13-week session in which one topic is studied per week. There is no difference in the requirements between an ordinary unit and an intensive unit, except for the shortened time frame.*

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.** Please note that the Peer Review task cannot be submitted late without Special Consideration.

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.

Policy on the use of ChatGTP and other Generative AI tools

Information about this unit's policy on the use of AI will be made available in the Assessment block in iLearn. Please check that information and contact the convenor if you have any questions.

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 quizzes	15%	No	11:55pm, Sun 24/12/23 (One quiz only)
Personal Argument	25%	No	11:55pm Tues 2/1/24
Peer Review	10%	No	11:55pm Wed 17/1/24
Final Scenario Report	35%	No	11.55pm Mon 22/1/24
Online engagement	15%	No	11:55pm Wed 24/1/24

Online quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **11:55pm, Sun 24/12/23 (One quiz only)**

Weighting: **15%**

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

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.

Personal Argument

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **11:55pm Tues 2/1/24**

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: **11:55pm Wed 17/1/24**

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 teaching staff.

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 ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **11.55pm Mon 22/1/24**

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 arguments and providing guidance and material for a 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 ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **11:55pm Wed 24/1/24**

Weighting: **15%**

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.

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 in this unit will be delivered online.

One two-hour lecture video 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. The weekly schedule is below.

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 in addition to the time required for assessments, engagement and reading.

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 consultation times will be advertised in iLearn. 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 semester's 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.

Week 1: Introduction and Standardisation (starting 11th of December)	
<i>Topic 1</i>	Introduction to Critical Thinking
<i>Topic 2</i>	Building and Representing Arguments
<i>Topic 3</i>	Deconstructing Arguments
Week 2: Deductive and Inductive Arguments (starting 18th of December)	
<i>Topic 4</i>	Deductive Arguments
<i>Topic 5</i>	Inductive Arguments

Mid-semester break (25/12/23-1/1/24)	
Week 3: Critical Thinking and the Human Mind (starting 2nd of January)	
Topic 6	Critical Thinking and the Human Mind
Topic 7	The Impact of Cognitive Biases
Week 4: Language and Rhetoric (starting 8th of January)	
Topic 8	The Language We Use: the power to persuade
Topic 9	The Language We Use: When words lead us astray
Week 5: Pseudo-Reasoning and Fallacies (starting 15th of January)	
Topic 10	The Rules of Engagement; Pseudo-reasoning and fallacies
Topic 11	Thinking critically <i>about</i> AI; Thinking critically <i>using</i> AI
Topic 12	Putting it all together: An extended example
Week 6 (starting 22nd of January)	
Assessment	Final Scenario Report Due Monday 22/1; Online Engagement tasks due Wednesday 24/1

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 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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.

Unit information based on version 2023.05 of the [Handbook](#)