

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**  
**Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-2012**

**Philosophy 1200: Reasoning and Critical Thinking (Online)**  
*Previously Philosophy 021*

**Fall-Winter Term 2011-2012**  
**Online**

**Instructor: Aaron Barth**  
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**DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to informal and formal reasoning. Topics to be covered include: recognizing an argument, identifying premises and conclusions of arguments, evaluating arguments, fallacies, deductive reasoning, formal symbolization of arguments, inductive reasoning, moral deliberation, scientific reasoning, and how to assess the media.

**TEXTS**

*Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. William Hughes and Jonathan Lavery, Broadview Press (2008).

**Additional texts used as reference**

*Logic, Schaum Outline Series*. John Nolt and Dennis Rohatyn. McGraw-Hill (1988).

*Introduction to Logic, Eleventh Edition*. Irving Copi and Carl Cohen, Prentice Hall (2002).

**OBJECTIVES**

To provide students with a set of skills that allows them to analyze the material they read in their other courses, their employment, the news media, and elsewhere more critically and effectively. These skills will also help students organize their own written work in order to produce more creative and compelling arguments.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Assignments	40%
Midyear Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%

There will be a total of 12 unit assignments for the course, 6 in each semester. 10 of the assignments will be valued at 3% each, and two will be valued at 5%. **Late Penalties:** Late assignments will be subject to a 5% penalty each day for the first three days (including

weekends). Any assignment handed in more than three days late will receive a mark of 0.

### **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.