

# OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## PHL105, Instructor: Eric Bottorff

Office hours: Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30, room 2757, or by appointment

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Website: <http://www.oakton.edu/user/~ebottorf/home.htm>

<b>I. Course Prefix</b>	<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Lab</b>
PHL	105	Logic	3	3	0

### II. Prerequisites

None

### III. Course (Catalogue) Description

Course studies principles of correct reasoning. Topics include analyzing structure of arguments, evaluating both inductive and deductive arguments, and recognizing common errors in reasoning. Focus is on providing tools to critically evaluate persuasive language encountered in everyday life, in mass media, and in academic texts.

### IV. Learning Objectives

After completing this class, students will be able to do the following:

- A. Analyze the structure of arguments in everyday exchanges and in more formal written material.
- B. Evaluate the validity and persuasiveness of arguments.
- C. Recognize common types of faulty reasoning.
- D. Develop skills that will enable them to construct their own arguments with greater clarity and sophistication.

### V. Academic Integrity

Students and employees at Oakton Community College are required to demonstrate academic integrity and follow Oakton's Code of Academic Conduct. This code prohibits:

- cheating,
- plagiarism (turning in work not written by you, or lacking proper citation),
- falsification and fabrication (lying or distorting the truth),
- helping others to cheat,

- unauthorized changes on official documents,
- pretending to be someone else or having someone else pretend to be you,
- making or accepting bribes, special favors, or threats, and
- any other behavior that violates academic integrity.

There are serious consequences to violations of the academic integrity policy. Oakton's policies and procedures provide students a fair hearing if a complaint is made against you. If you are found to have violated the policy, the minimum penalty is failure on the assignment and, a disciplinary record will be established and kept on file in the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for a period of 3 years.

Details of the Code of Academic Conduct can be found in the Student Handbook.

## VI. Tentative Schedule of Classes

The schedule can be found on the class website. For a direct link to the schedule, go here:  
<http://www.oakton.edu/user/~ebottorf/schedule.htm>

## VII. Methods of Instruction

This class will be taught with a mixture of lecture and other things. The typical class will probably involve my lecturing for a bit, then discussing the material as a class and answering questions, and possibly assigning individual or group work where you will be given the opportunity to actively engage with the material through various types of problems. And, as much as possible, I hope to use recently written or relevant articles/essays, and the occasional video clip.

## VIII. Course Practices Required

**Attendance:** Attendance is not required. However, if you want to get credit for your homework, you must be at class. (more details on homework policies are below)

**Quizzes:** There are six short quizzes that test you on the material covered in class and on the homework. The dates can be found on the class schedule at the website.

**Exams:** There are three exams, and each one only covers only the material taught since the previous exam—there is no comprehensive final exam.

**Homework:** Homework will generally be assigned in class. Some of the problems will be from our book, others will be given to you in the form of a handout that can be downloaded from the website. The problems from the homework will be similar to those you encounter on the quizzes and exams.

The homework will not be graded for accuracy, only for completion. However, I will occasionally be going through and grading your assignments in order to (a) give you feedback on your work and (b) make sure you actually did it. If I have strong reason to

believe you did not put any effort into the assignment, you will not receive full credit for it.

Your homework grade for the semester will be calculated as follows. Each assignment will be worth one point. To receive that point, you have to turn in the completed assignment in class when I ask for it. That means you cannot turn up to class with five minutes remaining in the period and turn in your homework. You will not receive credit. I expect there to be about 20 homework assignments this semester, so if by the end of the semester you have completed 17 of those, your homework grade will be 17/20, or 85%. You will, though, be allowed to miss one homework assignment without being penalized. So use it wisely.

**Make-up Policy:** You are only allowed to make up one quiz or exam. Any others you miss you will be given zero credit on. However, if you know in advance you are going to miss a quiz, or have a justifiable reason for missing it (health reasons, family emergency, the apocalypse, etc.), I will let you make it up with no penalty. On the other hand, if you miss the quiz due to simply being negligent, you will lose 5% a day for each day you fail to make it up. To make up quizzes or exams, go to the Testing Center on campus—I will be putting all quizzes and exams there immediately after they are given, and they will remain there for exactly a week.

Homework cannot be made up, unless you have extenuating circumstances that you have notified me of in advance, and we have come to an arrangement.

**Class Conduct:** A few quick things about conduct in class. (1) Food and drinks are allowed, but please don't bring anything loud, crunchy, or otherwise distracting to the class. (2) NO CELL PHONES!

## IX. Instructional Materials

Lewis Vaughn, *The Power of Critical Thinking*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (Paperback). ISBN: 0195377923

## X. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

The final grade breakdown is as follows:

Homework: 20%

Quizzes: 30%

Exams: 50%

The grading scale is:

A+	97.7 – 100	B+	87.7 – 89.9	C+	77.7 – 79.9	D+	67.7 – 69.9
A	93.4 – 97.6	B	83.4 – 87.6	C	73.4 – 77.6	D	63.4 – 67.6
A-	90 – 93.3	B-	80 – 83.3	C-	70 – 73.3	D-	60 – 63.3

**XI. Other Course Information:**

**A. Disabilities**

If you have a documented learning, psychological, or physical disability you may be entitled to reasonable academic accommodations or services. To request accommodations or services, contact the ASSIST office in the Learning Center. All students are expected to fulfill essential course requirements. The College will not waive any essential skill or requirement of a course or degree program.

**B. Discrimination**

The Oakton Community College Catalog states:

Oakton Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or marital status in admission to and participation in its educational programs, activities and services, or employment practices. The College does not tolerate sexual harassment or sexual assault by or of its students or employees.

In keeping with this policy of tolerance and non-discrimination, in this class all of us (myself included) should strive to listen and give careful consideration to all ideas expressed in class, especially those that are different from our own, without attacking or demeaning the people who have those views. We should also strive to avoid using insulting terms or telling offensive jokes when talking to or about individuals or groups.