MEETING TIMES AND DATES: M/W 9:15 am - 10:30 am.
LOCATION: Business Administration Bldg 210
PROFESSOR: Brian R. Huth
EMAIL: bhuth3@kent.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 12:30 - 2:15; Wednesdays: 12:30 - 2:15, 3:30 - 4:45 in Bowman 320 room W


COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An exploration of the place of argument in reasoning through a consideration of the structure, expression and function of arguments. Attention is also given to the evaluation of arguments and the identification of common errors in reasoning. Prerequisite: none.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES:
Arguments are everywhere: in law, in science, in mathematics, in religion, in your everyday life, etc. This class focuses on identifying and evaluating arguments from various aspects of life. We will pay close attention to the following: mechanics of arguments, relations between propositions and inferences, formal and informal fallacies, as well as different methods of argumentation. Students will gain insight into the difference between "good arguments" and "bad arguments," giving students the ability to identify and utilize efficient methods of reasoning and information gathering.

By the end of this course, students will be expected to be able to identify the basic elements of inductive and deductive arguments as well as be able to utilize different methods of reasoning involving various inductive and deductive methods. Students will also be expected to be able to identify bad argumentative methods.

REQUIREMENTS
During the semester, students will be expected to complete the following:
(1) four take-home quizzes
(2) two in-class tests
(3) ten homework assignments
*Students are also expected to attend class and contribute to class discussion.*
ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, AND GRADING

There are three different kinds of assignments in this class: homework, tests, and quizzes.

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be given periodically throughout the semester. All DUE DATES for homework assignments can be found in the Course Outline. You can work together on homework assignments, but please do not just copy off of one another. If I even suspect that students are simply copying each others' work, I will give those students a grade of 0 for that assignment. Working together does not mean copying someone else's work.

Quizzes

All quizzes will be take-home assignments. You will usually have about a week to complete them. The take-home quizzes will be similar to homework assignments, but they will be graded harsher than the homework. YOU CANNOT WORK TOGETHER ON QUIZZES. You can use the book and your notes, but I will fail any quizzes that are not the work of their owners.

Tests

There are two tests. They are in-class exams. You will not be allowed to use your notes or the book for these tests. I recommend that, as you go throughout the semester, you don't rely on your notes or the book but instead commit the principles that we cover to memory. Each test is worth 15% of the final grade. You DO NOT want to show up unprepared.

SOME OF THE ASSIGNMENTS CAN RECEIVE PARTIAL CREDIT (LIKE IN A MATHEMATICS CLASS). YOU HAVE TO ATTEMPT THE QUESTION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PARTIAL CREDIT! IF YOU CANNOT FINISH A PROBLEM, WORK IT OUT AS FAR AS YOU CAN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE MORE POINTS!

ONLY TESTS WILL RECEIVE A CURVE. HOWEVER, I NEVER CURVE AN ASSIGNMENT MORE THAN 5% AT THE VERY MOST.

FINALLY, ALL GRADES WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD. THIS CLASS HAS A TOTAL OF 1000 POSSIBLE POINTS. I WILL POST ASSIGNMENTS BY THEIR POINTS, NOT THEIR PERCENTAGES. THIS MAKES IT EASIER FOR YOU TO FIGURE OUT YOUR GRADE. EACH STUDENT WILL HAVE AN ATTENDANCE GRADE THAT WILL START OFF AT 200 POINTS. YOUR
ATTENDANCE WILL SLOWLY DROP BY INCREMENTS OF 50 (5 TOTAL PERCENTAGE POINTS) IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO CLASS.

Grading:
The percentage for grading is broken down as follows:

HOMEWORK: 30% (this means each homework is worth 3% each)
QUizzes: 20% (each quiz is worth 5% each)
TESTS: 30% (each test is worth 15% each)
ATTENDANCE: 20%

Attendance is essential to success. I will take a head count at the beginning of class and pass out an attendance sheet or I will simply take roll. You will be given 2 free unexcused absences after which each unexcused absence will lower your final score by 2.5 percentage points.

Participation will also be taken into account. If you are on the cusp between two grades, depending upon how much you participate, I will either give you the higher or lower of the two grades.

The following provides a translation from the numerical score to a letter grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 or below</td>
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GENERAL ETIQUETTE

- Turn off your cell phones or turn off your ringer and take your cell phone off of vibrate. PLEASE. I hate interrupting class because someone is texting or because someone keeps getting text messages. If it is an accident, that happens; but let's try to minimize the accidents as well.

- You may use your laptop or tablet for note taking purposes only.
• During email correspondences, please make sure to give the email a title. Also, please sign your name. Treat your email correspondences with me as if you were emailing any other professional.

• DO NOT SLEEP IN MY CLASS. This is college; if you need to sleep, please leave the room. If you sleep in my class I will take 5% off of your final grade. This is your one and only warning.

• If the classroom has plenty of open seating, avoid sitting in the back of the room.

• If you are going to be late, email me if you can. Also, if you show up late, please just quietly and respectfully find the seat closest to the door. If any student is repeatedly tardy, it will count as an absence. See me if you are concerned.

If you continue to violate my policies, your grade will suffer. I don't like making grades suffer, so please don't violate my policies.

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Drop and Withdrawal Dates**

The official registration deadlines for this course can be found by doing a Detailed Class Search from the Schedule of Classes found at: https://keys.kent.edu:44220/ePROD/bwlkffcs.P_AdvUnsecureCrseSearch?term_in=201580

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and other forms of Academic Dishonesty**

Please note that I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. Ignorance of university policy will not be accepted as an excuse. University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at: http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779

**Information for Students with Documented Disabilities**
University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with documented disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services. Contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on the relevant procedures.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

M 8/31: Syllabus. Introduction to the course. What is critical thought? Why is critical thought a philosophy class? Why should one study critical thought?

W 9/2: Ch 1. pp. 9 - 18. We will cover the abstract notion of concepts and we will sample various classification techniques that we use on a daily basis.

Week 2

M 9/7: LABOR DAY. NO CLASSES. Be safe.

W 9/9: Ch. 1. pp. 18 - 20. Practice exercises. We will finish our discussion concerning concepts and classification.

HW 1 Due 9/14

Week 3

M 9/14: Ch 2. pp. 26 - 40. We will discuss the merit and use of defining concepts.

HW 2 Due 9/16

W 9/16: Ch. 3. pp. 47 - 50. We will discuss propositions, statements, and connotations. We will also learn how to identify two different sentences that express the same proposition.

Read the supplemental handout on metaphors. You can download the handout on Blackboard.

Week 4

M 9/21: Ch 3. pp. 50 - 52. We will continue our discussion on propositions and we will learn how to identify and classify the propositional content of metaphors. There will be a supplemental handout that you should read for this class.

HW 3 Due 9/23

W 9/23: Ch 3. pp. 55 - 61. We will finish our discussion of propositions by looking at sentence connectives, restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses, and noun clauses.

QUIZ 1 Due 9/28
Week 5

M 9/28: Ch. 4. pp. 67 - 78. We will learn the elements of an argument as well as how to diagram arguments.

W 9/30: Ch. 4. pp. 79 - 87. We will learn how to analyze different arguments. We will also cover the difference between deductive and inductive arguments and learn how to evaluate the strength of inductive arguments.

HW 4 Due 10/5

Week 6

M 10/5: Ch 4. pp. 91 - 96. More on diagramming arguments, recognizing complex arguments.

QUIZ 2 Due 10/12

W 10/7: Ch. 5. pp. 103 - 116. We will begin learning about incorrect reasoning by studying both formal and informal fallacies.

Week 7

M 10/12: Ch 5. pp. 116 - 126. Fallacies (cont.)

HW 5 DUE 10/14

W 10/14: Ch 5. pp. 127 - 133. Fallacies (cont.). We will continue to talk about fallacies throughout the rest of the semester.

HW 6 DUE 10/19

Week 8

M 10/19: Ch. 6 pp. 145 - 158. We will begin to look at necessary reasoning by studying categorical logic.


STUDY FOR THE MIDTERM!!!

Week 9

M 10/26: MIDTERM :

W 10/28: Ch 12. pp. 417 - 425. We will begin to talk about inductive generalizations and causal arguments.

Week 10

W 11/4: Ch. 13. pp. 442 - 452. We will analyze arguments using analogy and learn to demarcate between proper arguments by analogy and improper ones.

QUIZ 3 Due 11/9

Week 11

M 11/9: No reading. We will continue our discussion of arguments by analogy and we will revisit inductive generalizations. More on fallacies.

HW 7 Due 11/16

W 11/11: VETERAN'S DAY. NO SCHOOL!!!

Week 12


HW 8 Due 11/23

Week 13

M 11/23: Ch. 15. pp. 483 - 487. We will learn the difference between arguments and explanations. We will also address the claim that explanatory syntheses are also arguments.

W 11/25: FALL RECESS. NO SCHOOL!!!

Week 14

M 11/30: Ch 15. pp. 488 - 503. Explanations, syntheses, and arguments (cont.)

QUIZ 4 Due 12/2: Finding Outside Articles

W 12/2: Ch 16. pp. 509 - 522. We will learn to address arguments concerning probability.

HW 9 Due 12/7

Week 15

M 12/7: No reading. Probability arguments (cont.)

HW 10 Due 12/9

W 12/9: No reading. Probability arguments (cont.)

Week 16

Final TBA