

Department:

Philosophy

Course Description:

The study of critical thinking and logic allows the student to practice skills in clear and logical thinking, analysis of information, and effective argumentation. The student will formulate and deliver arguments in written and oral form, supported by evidence and valid underlying assumptions.

Course Competencies:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. **(Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KSRN Course PHL1030 Logic and Critical Thinking.)**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize arguments
 - a. distinguish between arguments and non-arguments
 - b. identify the premises and the conclusion of arguments
 - c. differentiate between deductive and inductive arguments
2. Evaluate inductive arguments, such as analogical arguments, generalizations, arguments from authority, and causal inferences
 - a. recognize the basic concepts of inductive arguments
 - b. identify different types of inductive arguments
 - c. identify the structure of inductive arguments
 - d. evaluate the cogency of inductive arguments
3. Evaluate deductive arguments, such as modus ponens, modus tollens, disjunctive syllogism, and chain arguments
 - a. recognize the basic concepts of deductive arguments
 - b. identify different types of deductive arguments
 - c. identify the structure of deductive arguments
 - d. evaluate the validity and soundness of deductive arguments
4. Evaluate informal arguments using elements of critical thinking
 - a. evaluate the validity and soundness of deductive arguments
 - b. recognize components of language and language use relevant to reasoning such as meaning, definition, emotive force, denotation, and connotation
 - c. evaluate arguments from arenas such as the media, politics, the law, ethics, and science
5. Recognize the basic concepts of propositional logic
 - a. symbolize natural language arguments in propositional logic
 - b. use a standard formal method to evaluate the validity of arguments in propositional logic demonstrate familiarity with, and the ability to use, logical operators

Course Content:

- A. Critical thinking
- B. Recognizing arguments
- C. Evaluating arguments
- D. Fixing faulty arguments
- E. Counter arguments
- F. Logical fallacies
- G. Propositional and symbolic logic

Learning Assessments:

Competencies may be evaluated by multiple measures, including exams, papers, article reviews, research, experiments, and projects.

Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Epstein, R.L. (2017). Critical Thinking, (5th ed.). Socorro, NM: Advanced Reasoning Forum. ISBN-13: 978-1-938421-32-7.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” on our [Disability Services website](#).

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an [online report](#) about what happened so that they can get the support they need and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please review our [Equity Grievance Policy](#).