

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: **KRSN Course PHL 1030 Logical and Critical Thinking**).

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize the difference between arguments and non-arguments.
 - a. Students will distinguish between an argument and an explanation, report, or illustration.
 - b. Students will identify the premises and the conclusion of arguments.
 - c. Students will recognize components of language and language use relevant to reasoning such as meaning, definition, emotive force, denotation and connotation.
2. Identify and explain the components of informal reasoning
 - a. The student will be able to recognize and define informal fallacies
 - b. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of, and the ability to evaluate, inductive arguments such as analogical arguments, generalizations, arguments from authority, causal inferences, etc.
 - c. Students will evaluate the cogency of arguments in specialized areas such as legal, moral, or scientific reasoning.
3. Identify and apply the basic concepts of logical discourse.
 - a. Students will distinguish formal from informal arguments.
 - b. Students will distinguish deductive validity and soundness and be able to evaluate arguments for each.
 - c. The student will be able to recognize basic argument forms such as modus ponens, modus tollens, disjunctive syllogism, chain, etc.
4. Recognize the basic concepts of propositional logic.
 - a. The student will be able to symbolize natural language arguments in propositional logic.
 - b. The student will be able to use truth tables to evaluate the validity/invalidity of arguments in propositional logic.
 - c. Students will 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](#).