Philosophy 9: Principles of Critical Reasoning
Summer 2022

Instructors:
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Course Description:
This course will introduce both the theory and practice of critical reasoning. Reasoning is both something we do in every area of life and something for which we think there are standards that must be met if it is to be done well. This course looks at how we do reason and how we should reason with the aims of understanding both and bringing the two closer together.

The course is divided into three modules. In Module One, we will explore the psychology of human reasoning, which will help us identify and avoid thinking traps. Module Two will teach us to find and evaluate arguments using diagrammatic tools. Finally, in Module Three, we will learn to evaluate claims and arguments involving statistics and probability.

Required Texts and Supplies:
All required readings will be available for free on our CCLE course page.

In our section on argument evaluation, we will learn to find and evaluate arguments using a variety of tools. One of these tools is a web application. A personal computer or tablet for practicing the web application outside of class would be helpful, but not required.

Course Requirements/Grading:
- Participation – 15%
- Problem Sets – 2 x 20%
- Final Paper – 45%

Learning Objectives
- Become familiar with current research on how we reason
- Acquire skills and tools for avoiding reasoning traps
- Acquire tools for evaluating arguments in academic and non-academic articles
- Learn to thoughtfully and thoroughly review peer work
- Learn to evaluate statistical and probabilistic claims and arguments
- Learn to frame a research question
- Learn to prepare an article for publication

Schedule of Readings: A reading schedule for each week will be posted to CCLE. Please consult the schedule for required, recommended, and optional readings.

Accommodations: Students with learning needs that require special accommodations are encouraged to consult with UCLA's Center for Accessible Education (CAE). Details of the services CAE provides, including the protocol for letters of accommodation, can be found on their website: https://www.cae.ucla.edu. Also please do not hesitate to contact your instructors, if there's anything you think we can do to make the class more accessible.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to know and to follow the university's guidelines for academic honesty. Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. When in doubt about whether some academic practice is acceptable, ask your instructor for assistance. Always err on the side of caution. Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students, without exception. UCLA's policies on academic and intellectual integrity can be found at:
- https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconductcode
- https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity