



PHI 169 • Critical Reasoning (Spring '26)

Section 02F (Class #51362) • 3 Credits • Tue & Thu 3:00–4:15 PM
 Carman Hall 350 • Jan 26–May 26, 2025 • **Instructor:** David Santamaría Legarda
Email: David.Santamarialegarda@lehman.cuny.edu • **Office:** Carman Hall 371
Office Hours: *In-person:* Tu 4:15–5:15 PM, *Remote:* By appointment

Detailed Weekly Schedule

*Required reading each week are the instructor's **Lecture Notes** in Brightspace. Van Cleave (VC) sections are **optional** for reinforcement. Links to other optional materials will be provided in Brightspace. Calendar & Readings are subject to change, any change will be announced in Brightspace. Holidays, conversion days and withdrawal dates follow the official Spring 2026 Academic Calendar.*

W1 (Jan 27/29)

Tue: Introduction to the class. **Thu:** What is an argument? *Sun 2/1 Last day to drop with 75% tuition refund. Last day to drop without a grade of "WD".* **Optional:** VC 1.1–1.2, HKU Critical Thinking Web: What is an argument?, ThinkerAnalytix *How We Argue* Supplemental Guide Lessons 1-2

W2 (Feb 3/5)

Tue: Standard form. **Thu:** Argument Maps & Extended arguments *Sun 2/8 Last day to drop with 50% tuition refund.* **Optional:** VC 1.4 & 1.9, HKU Critical Thinking Web: Argument mapping, ThinkerAnalytix *How We Argue* Supplemental Guide Lessons 3 & 5-6.

W3 (Feb 10/12)

Tue: Argument Maps & Extended arguments (II) **Thu:** Lincoln's Birthday-No Class. *Sun 2/15 Last day to drop with 25% tuition refund. Last day to drop without the grade of "W". Verification of Enrollment due* **Optional:** VC 1.4 & 1.9, HKU Critical Thinking Web: Argument analysis - Argument mapping, ThinkerAnalytix *How We Argue* Supplemental Guide Lessons 3 & 5-6

W4 (Feb 17/19)

Tue: No Class. **Thu:** Deductive Reasoning *Project deadline: Pick article by Fri 2/20.* **Optional:** VC 1.6-8, ThinkerAnalytix *How We Argue* Supplemental Guide Lesson 4, forall x: Lehman: Chapter 2. Wireless Philosophy, Critical Thinking - Fundamentals: Truth and Validity

W5 (Feb 24/26)

Tue: Inductive Reasoning **Thu:** Inductive Reasoning (II) **Optional:** VC 1.8, HKU Critical Thinking Web: Argument analysis - Inductive Reasoning, Sinnott-Armstrong & Fogelin, *Understanding Arguments* pp.179-183

W6 (Mar 3/5)

Tue: Formal Fallacies. **Thu:** Informal Fallacies. *Due: Homework A on Tues 3/3.* **Optional:** VC Introduction to section 4.1, sections 4.3.1, 4.3.3-4 & 4.3.6; re-read 1.9,

An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments: Affirming the consequent, appeal to irrelevant authority, appeal to ignorance, genetic fallacy, guilt by association, appeal to hypocrisy, appeal to the bandwagon, ad hominem. Excelsior Online Writing Lab Logical Fallacies: Ad Hominem Fallacy, Bandwagon Fallacy, Guilt by Association Fallacy. Purdue OWL Logical Fallacies: Genetic Fallacy, Ad hominem, Ad populum/Bandwagon Appeal, UNC Writing Center — Fallacies: Appeal to authority, Ad populum, Ad hominem and tu quoque.

W7 (Mar 10/12)

Tue: Faulty Argument Techniques. **Thu:** Rhetorical Ploys. *Paper deadline:* First draft (Sun 3/15). **Optional:** VC 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.2, and 4.3.2, Excelsior Online Writing Lab Logical Fallacies: Straw Man Fallacy, False Dilemma Fallacy, Slippery Slope Fallacy, appeal to fear. Purdue OWL Logical Fallacies: Begging the Claim, Circular Argument, Either/or, Red Herring, Straw Man. UNC Writing Center — Fallacies: Slippery Slope, Straw Man, Red Herring, False Dichotomy, Begging the Question, appeal to pity. An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments: straw man, false dilemma, slippery slope, circular reasoning, appeal to fear. Walton, Douglas, Informal Logic: A Pragmatic Approach: Chapter 4, Introduction and sections 4.4-4.7

W8 (Mar 17/19)

Tue: Midterm review. **Thu: Midterm.**

W9 (Mar 24/26)

Tue: Language Issues. **Thu:** Language Issues and Bad Reasoning *Due:* Homework B on Sun 3/29. **Optional:** VC 4.1.5. Walton, Douglas, Informal Logic: A Pragmatic Approach: Section 9.1 & 9.3. Sennet, Adam, “Ambiguity”, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. Sorensen, Roy, “Vagueness”, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments: Equivocation, UNC Writing Center — Fallacies: Equivocation. Nelson, Michael, “Propositional Attitude Reports”, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Section 1)

W10 (Mar 31/ Apr 2)

Tue: Rational persuasiveness **Thu:** Spring Break - No Class **Optional:** Bowell & Kemp Critical Thinking: A concise Guide Pages 206-215

W11 (Apr 7/9)

Tue: Spring Break - No Class. **Thu:** Spring Break - No Class.

W12 (Apr 14/16)

Tue: Inference to the Best Explanation **Thu:** Which is the best explanation? *Mon 4/13 Deadline to withdraw with a grade of “W”.* **Optional:** VC 3.2. Sinnott-Armstrong & Fogelin Understanding arguments: An introduction to informal logic; (Pages 195-201). Douven, Igor, “Abduction”, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Sections 1-2). Russell, Bertrand “The Problems of Philosophy” (Chapter 2).

W13 (Apr 21/23)

Tue: Arguments from Analogy **Thu:** Explanations and Analogy & Causal Reasoning **Optional:** VC 3.2-3. Sinnott-Armstrong & Fogelin Understanding arguments: An introduction to informal logic (Pages 204-208 & 215-218). Bartha, Paul, “Analogy and Analogical Reasoning”, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

W14 (Apr 28/30)

Tue: More causal reasoning. **Thu:** Expected Value and Statistical Risk *Due:* Homework C on Sun 5/3. **Optional:** Walton, Douglas Informal Logic: A Pragmatic Approach. (Sections 8.5 to 8.10). Sinnott-Armstrong & Fogelin Understanding arguments: An introduction to informal logic (Pages 220-237 & Chapter 12). Gigerenzer, Gerd. “Making Sense of Health Statistics”. Brunning, Andy “A Rough Guide to Spotting Bad Science”, Compound Interest

W15 (May 5/7)

Tue: Material Catch-up if needed **Thu:** Material Catch-up if needed *Paper deadline:* Second draft on Tue 5/5.

W16 (May 12/14)

Tue: In-Class Project Work. **Thu:** In-Class Project Work. *Due:* Homework D on Sun 5/17.

W17 (May 19/21)

Tue: Exam revision. **Thu:** Optional Exam Revision.

W18 (May 26)

Tue: Final Exam.