Office Information
Office Location: Faculty Center, Rm. 276
Office ph#: 825-6035
Office Hours: W 1:30-4:30; TR 3:30-4:30; and by appointment

E-Mail Address
andrew.piker@tamucc.edu

Course Description
This course is an introduction to some basic principles and techniques used in the analysis, construction, and evaluation of arguments. We will study and practice: a) methods of identifying the structure of an argument, b) different kinds of reasoning, and c) various ways of recognizing good or faulty reasoning.

Learning Outcomes
In this class, students will be expected to:
1) demonstrate an ability to understand and represent the structure of arguments;
2) evaluate both deductive and inductive reasoning;
3) construct and revise arguments

Written Assignments
Two quizzes, one test, and a final exam; a paper draft (approximately one page, plus a diagram of your argument); a paper of at least 4-6 pages; in-class and homework assignments (including a progress report on your paper draft, to be discussed in class).

The in-class and homework assignments will include a variety of exercises designed to develop reasoning skills. The quizzes, test, and final exam will consist of short answer questions (true/false, multiple choice, definitions, etc.), and exercises similar to those included in the in-class and homework assignments. In the progress report, students will begin formulating arguments on a topic of their own choice; they will further develop those arguments in the paper draft assignment, and present them in more detail in the paper that is due at the end of the course.

Grading
I will grade work on a 100 point scale, where A=90-100, B=80-89, etc. Your overall grade will consist of the following: 10% for each quiz; 25% for the test; 5% for the paper draft; 15% for the paper itself; 10% for the in-class and homework assignments; and 25% for the final exam. Attendance, class participation, and improvement will be considered in deciding borderline cases.

Late Assignments and Incompletes
Students who miss a test or fail to turn in another assignment on time for a good reason will be
given a chance to make up the assignment and turn it in during the same or following week, at a
time arranged with the instructor. An incomplete for the course is possible only in cases in which
the course work is nearly complete, and the student has a legitimate reason for not completing
the course work by the end of the semester.

Attendance, Late Arrivals, Early Departures
Attendance is not required, but is strongly recommended (and taken into account in borderline
grade cases). The material studied in the class is cumulative – later material builds upon and
presupposes understanding of earlier material – so students who miss classes tend to have
difficulty catching up. Also, much of our class time will be devoted to working on in-class
exercises, so that students can practice and develop their reasoning skills with help from their
classmates and the instructor. Missing in-class exercises negatively impacts students’ grades
directly (in-class assignments, together with homework assignments, constitute 10% of the
overall course grade) and indirectly (if students do not develop their skills sufficiently by
completing the in-class assignments, they may not be adequately prepared for homework
assignments, quizzes, the test, or the final).

Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and is strongly discouraged.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of work as one’s own, that was in fact produced by another author
(e.g., the submission of a paper as one’s own work, when it was written by someone else; or the
submission of a portion of a paper written by another author, without citing the source of the
material). University policy strictly prohibits plagiarism. Plagiarized work will be assigned a
grade of “F.”

Advisement
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other
academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time,
professional advisors. For the College of Liberal Arts the undergraduate advisor is Linda Miller
(825-3466; linda.miller@tamucc.edu). The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley (825-5896;
Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students
who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For
more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

Notice to Students with Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in
making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that
you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.),
please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at
825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as
possible.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he
or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus,
equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Texts**
Required: Hand-outs (to be distributed in class)

Optional: Ronald Munson and Andrew Black, The Elements of Reasoning, 5th edition (I have not ordered any copies for the bookstore, since students generally find the hand-outs provide sufficient information)

**Course Schedule**
All page numbers indicate readings from the optional Munson and Black text, in case you decide to order it

September  
5  **Introduction**  
The Nature and Structure of Arguments  
pp. 3-16

10  **Analyzing Arguments**  
Arrow and Keyword Diagrams  
pp. 18-33

12  Arrow and Keyword Diagrams, continued
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Evaluating (Deductive) Arguments</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Validity and Soundness</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pp. 34-42</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Venn Diagrams</td>
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<td>pp. 84-97</td>
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<td>Venns, cont’d.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td><strong>October</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Propositional Logic</strong></td>
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<td>Compound Statements; Necessary and Sufficient Conditions</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Paper Draft Progress Report Due</strong></td>
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<td>Progress Report Discussion</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Symbolization</td>
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<td>pp.58-62; and 74-75</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Symbolization, cont’d.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td><strong>Test</strong></td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Truth Tables</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Truth Tables, cont’d.</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Argument Forms</td>
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<td>pp. 62-70</td>
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<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Proofs</td>
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<td>pp. 70-74</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Paper Draft Due</strong></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Informal Fallacies</strong></td>
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<td>pp.136-158</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Fallacies, cont’d.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td><strong>No Class, Thanksgiving</strong></td>
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<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<td>Fallacies, cont’d.</td>
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5  Argument by Analogy
    pp. 120-127

10  Analogy, cont’d.; Review
    Paper Due

Final Exam: Thursday, December 12, 11-1:30