Office Information
Office Location: Faculty Center, Rm. 276
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Office Hours: MW 1-2; TR 1:30-3:00; and by appointment

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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

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](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:** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Written Assignments**
Two quizzes (10% each), one test (25%), and a final exam (25%); a paper draft of approximately one page, including diagrams of the arguments in the draft (5%); a paper of at least 4-6 pages (15%); in-class and homework assignments, including a progress report on your paper, to be discussed in class (10% total for the in-class and homework assignments).

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.

**Reading**
Required:

Hand-outs (to be distributed in class, and posted on Blackboard)

**Course Schedule**
All page numbers indicate readings from the Munson and Black text

August 28  **Introduction**
The Nature and Structure of Arguments
pp. 1-15

September 2  **Analyzing Arguments**
Arrow and Keyword Diagrams
pp. 16-27
4  Arrow and Keyword Diagrams, continued
9  **Evaluating (Deductive) Arguments**
Validity and Soundness
pp. 28-36
11  Venn Diagrams
pp. 76-89
16  Venns, cont’d.
18  Review
23  **Quiz**
25  **Propositional Logic**
Compound Statements; Necessary and Sufficient Conditions
(Hand-Out)
30  **Paper Draft Progress Report Due**
Progress Report Discussion
October 2  Symbolization
pp. 49-53; and 63-64
7  Symbolization, cont’d.
9  Review
14 **Test**
16 Truth Tables
   (Hand-Out)
21 Truth Tables, cont’d.
23 Argument Forms
   pp. 53-59
28 Proofs
   pp. 60-63
   *Paper Draft Due*
30 Proofs, cont’d.

November
4 Proofs, cont’d.
6 Review

11 **Quiz**
13 *Informal Fallacies*
   pp.124-145
18 Fallacies, cont’d.
20 Fallacies, cont’d.
25 *Argument by Analogy*
   pp. 109-121

December
2 Analogy, cont’d.; Review
   *Paper Due*

*Final Exam: Thursday, December 4, 11-1:30*