Office Information
Office Location: Faculty Center, Rm. 276
Office phone: 825-6035
Office Hours: MW 9-10; TR 9-10:30; 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

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; 20% for the paper; 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.”

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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. 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Disabilities Accommodations**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising
Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 6th, 2018 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

More Student Support
CASA (Center for Academic Student Achievement; includes Writing Center, tutoring services, etc.): 825-2977
Student Support Services: 825-3266
Counseling Center: 825-3266

Written Assignments
Two quizzes (10% each), one test (25%), and a final exam (25%); a paper of at least 3-5 pages (20%); 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 that is due at the end of the course.

Reading
No required textbook

If you would like to order a textbook, the recommended one is The Elements of Reasoning, 5th, 6th, or 7th edition, Ronald Munson and Andrew Black, Wadsworth/Cengage

Many hand-outs (to be distributed in class, and posted on Blackboard)
Course Schedule
All page numbers indicate readings from the optional Munson and Black text, 6th edition

January 17  Introduction
           The Nature and Structure of Arguments
           pp. 1-15

22  Analyzing Arguments
    Arrow and Keyword Diagrams
    pp. 16-27
24  Arrow and Keyword Diagrams, continued

29  Evaluating Arguments
    Validity and Soundness
    pp. 28-36
31  Venn Diagrams
    pp. 76-89

February 5  Venns, cont’d.
7  Review
12  Quiz
14  Propositional Logic
    Compound Statements; Truth Functions
    (Hand-Out)

19  Paper Progress Report Due
    Progress Report Discussion
21  Symbolization
    pp. 49-53; and 63-64
26  Symbolization, cont’d.
28  Review

March 5  Test
7  Truth Tables
    (Hand-Out)
12  Spring Break
14  Spring Break
19  Truth Tables, cont’d.
21  Argument Forms
    pp. 53-59
26  Proofs
    pp. 60-63
28  Proofs, cont’d.

April 2  Proofs, cont’d.
     4  Review
   9  **Quiz**
   11 **Informal Fallacies**
      pp. 124-145
16  Fallacies, cont’d.
18  Fallacies, cont’d.
23  **Argument by Analogy**
   25  pp. 109-121
    Analogy, cont’d.
30  Analogy, cont’d.

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 9, 1:45-4:15