Course Description: This course is an introduction to critical thinking and elementary formal logic. The two required texts have as their goal the inculcation of habits of critical thinking and each attempts to reach this goal in a different manner. Learning these different approaches for recognizing faulty argumentation and constructing sound and convincing arguments will provide students with the necessary skills for engaging in critical reflection on complex issues in their personal and professional lives as well as in their academic work.

It is imperative that students keep up with the schedule of readings in order that they can participate in class discussions. Critical Thinking relies on the ACTIVE engagement of the individual – passivity is not appropriate in this particular class setting.

Required Texts:


Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule:

WEEK 1
M Jan 9 - Introduction
W Jan 11 - A Code of Intellectual Conduct
    *Attacking Faulty Reasoning (AFR)* Intro and Chapter 1 pp. 1-12
F Jan 13 – The Reconstruction of Arguments
    AFR Chapter 2 – What is an Argument? pp. 13-29

WEEK 2
M Jan 16 – Martin Luther King Day – No Classes
W Jan 18 – Another General Method of Argument Analysis/Reconstruction
    *The Logic of Real Arguments (LRA)* Intro and Chapter 2 pp. 1-28
F Jan 20 AFR What is a Good Argument?
    Chapter 3 pp. 30-40

WEEK 3
M Jan 23 AFR Making Arguments Stronger
    Chapter 3 pp. 40-50
*HAND IN ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS #1
W Jan 25 AFR What is a Fallacy?
    Chapter 4 pp. 51-61
F Jan 27 AFR Fallacies that Violate the Structural Criterion
    Chapter 5 pp. 63-72

WEEK 4
M Jan 30 AFR Fallacies of Inconsistency & Fallacies of Deductive Inference
    Chapter 5 pp. 72-87
W Feb 1 AFR Fallacies that Violate the Relevance Criterion
    Chapter 6 pp. 92-101
F Feb 3 AFR Fallacies of Irrelevant Appeal
    Chapter 6 pp. 102-114
*HAND IN ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS #2

WEEK 5
M Feb 6 *FALLACY RECOGNITION TEST #1
W Feb 8 AFR Fallacies that Violate the Acceptability Criterion
    Chapter 7 pp. 120-135
F Feb 10 – Winter Carnival – No classes
WEEK 6
M Feb 13  **AFR** Fallacies of Unwarranted Assumption  
Chapter 7 pp. 136-153
W Feb 15  **AFR** Fallacies of Missing Evidence  
Chapter 8 pp. 161-176
F Feb 17  **AFR** Causal Fallacies  
Chapter 8 pp. 176-188

WEEK 7
M Feb 20  **AFR** Fallacies of Counterevidence  
Chapter 9 pp. 193-198
*HAND IN ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS # 3
W Feb 22  **AFR** Ad Hominem Fallacies  
Chapter 9 pp. 198-203
F Feb 24 –  **AFR** Fallacies of Diversion  
Chapter 9 pp. 204-211

WEEK 8
M Feb 27 – **FALLACY RECOGNITION TEST #2**
W Feb 29 – **LRA** Example from Thomas Malthus  
F Mar 2 – **LRA** Reasoning about Nuclear Deterrence, pp. 48-69

WEEK 9
M Mar 5 – Spring Break – No Classes
W Mar 7 – Spring Break
F Mar 9 – Spring Break

WEEK 10
M Mar 12 - **LRA**, Reasoning about Nuclear Deterrence, pp. 48-69.
*HAND IN ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS #4
W Mar 14 – **LRA**, An Example from J.S. Mill pp. 70-81.
F Mar 16 – **LRA**, Arguments about God’s Existence, pp. 82-98.

WEEK 11
M Mar 19 – Read Response to Dawkin’s Argument posted on BB.
F Mar 23 – In-class debate

WEEK 12
M Mar 26 – LRA, “Suppose…” pp 115-131
W Mar 28 – LRA, An Example from Marx, pp. 132-142
F Mar 30 – In-class debate

WEEK 13
M Apr 2 – LRA Evaluating Scientific Arguments pp. 143-159
*HAND IN ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION AND ANALYSIS #5
W Apr 4 – LRA Evaluating Scientific Arguments
F Apr 6 – In-class debate

WEEK 14
M Apr 9 – AFR Chapter 10 -Writing the Argumentative Essay pp. 216-223.
W Apr 11– * IN CLASS TEST TODAY
F Apr 13 – In-class debate

WEEK 15
M Apr 16 – LRA Philosophical Assumptions pp. 160-171
W Apr 18 – LRA Philosophical Assumptions
F Apr 20 – In-class debate
*Argumentative Essays Due today.

Grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, General Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate Preparation &amp; Participation (Mar23/Mar30/Apr6/Apr13/Apr20)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallacy Test #1 (Feb 6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fallacy Test #2 (Feb 27)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument Reconstruction &amp; Analysis (5x5%) (Jan23/Feb3/Feb20/Mar12/Apr2)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test (Apr 11)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argumentative Essay (Apr 20)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Argument Reconstruction and Analysis.** These assignments will also require you to analyze arguments *that you will find yourself* in newspapers and journals. (I will give you handouts to explain exactly what is expected.)

**Argumentative Essay.** This project requires the student to use the type of argument analysis that they will have learned and practiced throughout the course. Students will
research an argument that deeply concerns them and write a detailed analysis. They should be 3-5 pages long. More detailed instructions will be provided in a handout closer to the due date.

*Academic integrity* is essential to a student’s education. Plagiarism, Cheating, Fabrication and Facilitating Academic Dishonesty are offences that will not be tolerated. Plagiarism—loosely defined as the presentation of the work of another author as if it were your own—will not be tolerated. If you are unclear about how to cite your sources properly, you are urged to discuss the matter with the instructor before submitting an assignment. Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with the University policy. See [http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/](http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/)

*Class attendance* is very important. Three unexcused absences are permitted; it is your responsibility to notify the instructor if you cannot be in class more than this. More than three unexcused absences can result in a lowering of the final course grade by at least a half letter grade, and additional unexcused absences may result in a grade of F being recorded for the entire course. See [http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/](http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/) for more information.

**Late Policy:** Late papers will be reduced a fraction of a grade (e.g. from B to B-) for each week, or part thereof, of lateness, up to two full grades (e.g. from B to D).

**If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:**

*Michigan Technological University complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, Chair/Dean of your academic unit, or the Affirmative Programs Office at 487-3310.*