

Course Syllabus

## **Philosophy 115: Critical Reasoning**

**Winter Quarter 2013**

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**Instructor: Jason Benchimol**

Email: Please use the Canvas email tool for all electronic correspondence.

This is an online course. There are no meeting dates or times. The course will start on 3 Jan 2013 and will end on 20 Mar 2013.

### **Course Overview**

We encounter arguments in all spheres of our daily lives. Arguments, whether made by family members, scientists, politicians, or media figures, are tendered in support of some position or other. This course is designed to introduce you to the various forms of argumentation and the ways to assess the strengths/limitations of those arguments. By the end of the course, you should be able to extract arguments from a variety of sources and offer a philosophical analysis of each.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Development of the ability to identify different forms of argument
- Development of the ability to extract and reconstruct arguments from different media
- Development of strategies for critically evaluating arguments
- Practice the development of analytical writing skills
- Development of the philosophical vocabulary necessary to practice effective critical thinking

### **Required Text**

Richard Feldman, *Reason and Argument* (2nd ed), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999. ISBN: 0-13-624602-8

### **Grades/Assessment**

Your final grade will be based on points earned in the following categories, and weighted according to the following percentages:

Daily Exercises: 50% of final grade

Quizzes (9): 25% of final grade

Final Exam: 25% of final grade