PHIL 210
Critical Thinking
Section EC
Fall 2026

This syllabus is subject to change and any changes will be posted in the Announcements section of your eConcordia portal.

Disclaimer: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

About the Course

Instructor: A. Alexander Antonopoulos

Email: phil210ec@concordia.ca

Please note that emails to the instructor about PHIL 210 that are sent to a different email address than the email address provided above will not receive a reply.

Teaching Assistants' Contact Information: Available on the course website on Course Home, Contacts Page to view your assigned TA.

Questions? Please consult the syllabus before e-mailing the teaching assistant or instructor.

1. Calendar Description

This course is an introduction to argumentation and reasoning. It focuses on the kinds of arguments one is likely to encounter in academic work, in the media, and in philosophical, social, and political debate. The course aims to improve students' ability to advance arguments persuasively and their ability to respond critically to the arguments of others. Students will find the skills they gain in this course useful in virtually every area of study.

NOTE: Students who have received credit for PHIZ 210 or for this topic under a PHIZ 298 number may not take this course for credit.

2. Course Description

We all have to make up our minds about what to believe, and making up our minds is a matter of figuring out what the world is like, something we cannot do without reasoning about it. What, then, are the proper standards and methods for reasoning, and what are the ways in which we might go wrong? These are some of the central questions of this course, whose topic is the nature of correct reasoning.

This is an online course. We will not be meeting in a classroom.

3. Course Objectives

This course aims to develop students' understanding of concepts central to the study of reasoning, such as argument, validity, soundness, evidence, and fallacy. It also aims to cultivate students' appreciation of the significance of the distinction between good reasoning and bad reasoning, and to enable students to engage appropriately with a variety of arguments, regardless of the domain in which they encounter them.

More specific course objectives are stated at the beginning of each lesson.

4. Course Material

The material for this course consists of a required textbook and the course material provided on the PHIL 210 course website, including study materials, videos, assignments, and other resources.

4.1 Required Textbook

The required textbook for this course is ***Clear Thinking in a Blurry World*** by Tim Kenyon. A digital copy of the textbook will be accessible via a third-party platform on Top Hat.

To access the link for Top Hat, go to the **Textbook** page on the **Course Home** tab of the course website.

You can also access the textbook on the Top Hat app. For more information about the interactive features in the textbook, visit: https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Using-Your-Textbook

Should you require assistance with the course textbook, you must contact the Top Hat Support Team by email (support@tophat.com), the Top Hat in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

5. Course Website

The course website can be accessed at www.econcordia.com.

Your account will allow you to access the online course material, which includes videos, notes, Q&A forum, all graded course components, useful links, readings and many more resources from the course website for the duration of the term, as well as for 6 months after the last day of the semester.

6. Course Graded Assessments

3 Reflection Activities (5% each)	15%
3 Quizzes (15% each)	45%
Final Examination	40%

6.1 Description of Graded Assessments

Reflection Activities - 15%

At the end of each online lesson, there is an invitation to a reflection activity. You must choose three (3) of the ten (10) available activities to complete during the course, and each is worth 5% of your total grade, amounting to 15%.

If you submit more than four reflection activities, only the first three submitted will count.

You must submit reflection activities by Sunday night at the end of the week during which the lesson is assigned (note: on the course agenda, each week runs from Monday to Sunday). Late submissions will not be accepted.

Please note that it is crucial to read the corresponding chapter in the course textbook before completing reflection activities.

Your answers should take the form of a short-essay. Please see below section *6.2 Expectations and Evaluation Criteria* for guidelines.

Quizzes - 45%

There are three quizzes during the course. Quizzes will contain multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short-answer questions, and short-essay questions. The questions will involve identifying or explaining some of the critical thinking issues discussed in the course.

· Multiple-choice questions provide a list of answers, only one of which is correct.

· True-false questions consist in a claim that must be assessed as true or false.

· Short-answer questions ask for an answer that is a few words long.

· Short-essay questions require answers that are typically 150-200 words long.

Quizzes are available on the course website Assessments tab. The quizzes will be accessible for a 24-hour period (from 12:00am to 11:59pm) on the date scheduled.

Once you begin a quiz, you will have two (2) hours to finish it. Thus, a quiz should be started more than two hours prior to when the quiz is locked and closed (again, at 11:59pm). Please plan accordingly. Please note that all times mentioned are Canadian Eastern Time. If you take an online quiz while you are located outside this time zone, you must account for the difference between your local time and Eastern Time and adhere to the latter. The quiz may be closed while you are working if it is past 11:59 pm Eastern Time even though it may not be 11:59 pm at your location.

Final Examination - 40%

The final examination will be administered online on the eConcordia course website. Directions for taking the exam will be announced closer to the exam period, so please pay attention to course announcements. No proctoring software will be used. The Official Exam period is determined by Concordia University and the date of the final exam is scheduled within that period.

6.2 Expectations and evaluation criteria

General Guidelines on Reflection Activities

For each reflection activity that you submit you will be assigned a grade between 0 and 5. Here is what each of the grades mean:

0-2.5 Completely unsatisfactory. (F.) 2.6-2.99 Little effort or understanding. (D.) 3-3.99 A reasonable effort that shows some misunderstanding of the material. (B or C.) 4-5 Demonstrates competence with regard to the material covered. (A.)

General Guidelines on Short-Essay Questions

· Short-essay questions call for detailed answers, which clearly explain your reasoning.

· Each element of your answer must contribute to the explanation.

· If the question involves more than one element, the answer must address each element of the question.

· Generally, it is not enough to provide the correct answer; you must also explain why it is the correct answer and, in this way, demonstrate that you have a mastery of the notions involved. After all, it is possible to hit on the right answer accidentally.

· It is often helpful (or expected) to provide an example to support a point. Whenever you provide an example, make sure to explain why it counts as an example for the idea or notion that you are explaining. As before, if you do not do this, you leave open the possibility that you provided a proper answer by accident.

· Only original answers accurately reflect your understanding of the relevant concepts.

· You are required to put all of your answers in your own words. Answers taken directly from course materials or other sources (even if properly cited) do not constitute satisfactory responses to short-essay questions.

Grading system

The grading system used at Concordia University can be found in section 16.1.11 of the Undergraduate Calendar.

In order to view your grades throughout the semester, click on the Grades link in your course.

It is your responsibility to ensure your work has been received (to be verified as outlined in your assignment instructions) and to contact your TA via email for clarification if you have any questions concerning your grades.

Your final letter grade for the course will be posted in your Student Hub at the end of the term.

The following is the grading scheme for this course:

90-100% A+ 4.30

85-89% A 4.00

80-84% A- 3.70

77-79% B+ 3.30

73-76% B 3.00

70-72% B- 2.70

67-69% C+ 2.30

63-66% C 2.00

60-62% C- 1.70

57-59% D+ 1.30

53-56% D 1.00

50-52 % D- 0.70

0-49% F 0.00

Philosophy Department Statement Regarding Grades and Grade Distribution

1) The Undergraduate Calendar 16.3 specifies that As, Bs, and Cs are for “outstanding,” “very good” and “satisfactory” work, respectively. The Philosophy Department interprets this to mean that: Cs are awarded for work that is adequate, yet in some way fails to completely meet all expectations and requirements; Bs are awarded for work that fully meets all expectations and requirements; As are reserved for outstanding work that exceeds expectations and requirements by, e.g., demonstrating outstanding rigour, clarity, or insight.

2) In 200 & 300 level courses with over 30 students, it is normally expected that the grade average will be in the C+ to B- range; there will be no more than 25% As. In other words, and this is especially true for open book examinations, note that getting the “right answer” gives you about 7.5 / 10 (B). This is the normal grade for a good answer, the one we give when there is “nothing wrong” in the answer (“work that fully meets all expectations and requirements”). To receive 8 (A-), 8.5 (A), 9, or 10 (A+), the answer must go beyond the expectations and have to be particularly well detailed or explained, use great, useful and clear examples, go beyond the material covered in the textbook, etc. In addition, we grade for originality (e.g., how different your answer is from the other answers we read) and how a given answer demonstrates understanding as well as mastery of the finer details of the answer. This is the grading scheme used throughout the Philosophy Department, as stated above.

7. Course Policies

7.1 Late Submissions and Extensions

Any work submitted after the deadline is considered late and will **NOT BE GRADED**.

Work-related reasons, vacations and travel plans (including those that are work-related) are not considered valid reasons for late submissions of or an inability to complete assignments, quizzes and exams.

Vacations and travel plans are not considered a valid reason for a deferral request.

Please note that you are responsible for the version of the work you upload to the website. If you upload the incorrect version of your work to the website, you can resubmit the correct version prior to the deadline. If you fail to meet the deadline, the version of your work located on the website is the one that will be graded. In case the upload fails somehow, make sure you have a backup copy on your hard drive or in the cloud, as the instructor may request such a copy if a technical issue arises.

In addition, please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment is received before the deadline. Should you be unable to submit your work via the website, you must submit your work via email to your TA before the deadline. Please give yourself enough time for online submissions to send your assignments via email should a technical issue arise. If a problem occurs let us know *immediately*.

Similar regulations apply regarding the online quizzes: keep a backup copy of your answers on your hard drive or in the cloud. If something goes wrong, if any kind of technical issue arises, forward your answers in an email to your TA *and* to the instructor. Failing to do so will make it much harder for us to help you in resolving the issue.

Any request for an extension must be received before the deadline or it will not be accepted. In fairness to all students, there will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this policy.

If you are unable to complete your work by the deadline or write an exam on the assigned date, it is your responsibility to request an extension beforehand via email sent to your Teaching Assistant.

Extensions will be granted only to students who are able to provide a reasonable and verifiable **MEDICAL NOTE** or other form of **DOCUMENTATION** before the deadline. Medical notes must include dates within which you are excused from work/school. Accordingly, there will be no make-up exams except under such documented circumstances.

In the case of emergencies, it is your responsibility to notify your Teaching Assistant via email as soon as the issue arises in order to determine the course of action required for the matter at hand.

The procedure to be followed when a student misses a final examination is available here.

7.2 Communication

All communication with the TAs and the professor will take place via email.

Please **ALWAYS EMAIL YOUR TA FIRST** before contacting the professor (exceptions can be made if the topic is the philosophy of existentialism as explained in the final examination rubric) with any questions or concerns you have, or if you require further feedback. Also, please allow for a 24-hour response time during the week (Monday-Friday). Teaching Assistants may check their messages once over the 48-hour weekend period and are not available on statutory or university holidays.

You will be communicating with your assigned TA and eConcordia personnel via email only.

You are required to be polite at all times and to include the following information in **all** your email communication:

- Full name
- Concordia student ID number.

Note that if you wish us to proceed to a revision or a detailed explanation of your grade on one assignment or a quiz, you should contact your TA **first**. If the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, then you *should forward the correspondence with your TA* to the instructor.

Note that your grade, once you ask us to revise it, can go up but can also go down.

Save a copy of all email correspondence for the duration of the term and until the final letter grade for your course has been posted in your Student Hub.

We strongly encourage you to use a Concordia University email account or an account from a provider such as Sympatico, Videotron, etc. Free email accounts such as Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail, etc. are NOT recommended and very often lead to communication problems (emails from eConcordia might not make it to your inbox, e.g., sometimes they will be in your spam folder).

We are not responsible if you are using one of these services and that the email ends up in our spam or junk folders.

Your email address must be registered in your Student Hub as well as in the Student Profile of your My eConcordia Portal.

7.3 Course Announcements

Important information regarding the course will be communicated to you via the **Announcements** page on the **Course Home** tab of the course website on a regular basis. Make sure to check the Announcements regularly.

7.4 Technical information

Technical Requirements

The technical requirements for accessing the online material are listed within the course content and may also be found at: http://www.concordia.ca/academics/online-courses/how-it-works/technical-requirements.html

eConcordia HelpDesk Schedule

Please note that the eConcordia HelpDesk is open Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET.

Technical Issues

For any technical questions or inquiries, or if you are having difficulty accessing the eConcordia site, please contact eConcordia's HelpDesk at: helpdesk@econcordia.com

The eConcordia team takes every possible measure to ensure that your online learning experience runs as smoothly as possible. There may be times, however, when you encounter technical difficulties that are simply beyond our control. This can include unforeseen network or server or connectivity issues.

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that they save a copy of all work submitted through the system. This applies to any work sent via email and uploads and textbox submissions to the course website. **Students are required to save copies of work both on a computer hard drive and an external storage device (CD or USB key)**.

7.5 ACSD Access Centre for Students with Disabilities

Students may register with ACSD through the Concordia Portal: https://www.concordia.ca/students/accessibility/register.html

Eligibility:

- In order to be eligible for disability-related services from the ACSD, students must satisfy the following conditions:

    - Be admitted to and currently enrolled for classes at Concordia University.
    - Provide the ACSD with qualifying documentation of a disability.

- Once you have registered with ACSD, eConcordia will receive a confirmation of the additional time allotted from ACSD.
- You will receive an email from eConcordia confirming the additional time allocated. Allow one week after the DNE date to receive your email confirmation.
- All assessments including the final exam are done online - you do not need to write at the ACSD office.
- Assessments are taken on the same date as indicated in the agenda.
- In the event that you do not receive a confirmation from eConcordia approving/confirming your accommodations, you should email: acsd@econcordia.com - include your name, student ID, course and name of your advisor at the Concordia ACSD office.

7.6 Academic Integrity

In this course, the use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited.

Uses of ChatGPT or other AI tools are deemed misconduct under Concordia's *Academic Code of Conduct*. Students may be charged under Articles 18 (general cheating/plagiarism/dishonest behavior) and 19a (plagiarism) of the Code.

Academic Code of Conduct

All students are required to watch Concordia University's academic integrity video and to successfully complete the academic integrity quiz within the first two weeks of the academic term. Links to both of these resources can be found under the "Useful documents and links" heading on the university's academic integrity site: https://www.concordia.ca/students/academic-integrity.html

What is plagiarism? The University in its Academic Code of Conduct defines plagiarism as "the presentation of the work of another person, in whatever form, as one's own or without proper acknowledgement" (Article 19a of the Academic Code of Conduct). It also includes using another person's words as one's own without the required use of quotation marks (and referencing). Plagiarism is an academic offence governed by the Academic Code of Conduct. To find out more about how to avoid plagiarism, see https://www.concordia.ca/students/success/learning-support/resources/writing/avoid-plagiarism.html

What are the consequences of getting caught? As is the case for all offences under the Academic Code of Conduct, one or more of the following sanctions may be imposed:

- Reprimand the student;

- Direct that a piece of work be resubmitted;
- Enter a “0” for the piece of work in question;
- Enter a grade reduction in the course;
- Enter a failing grade for the course;
- Enter a failing grade and ineligibility for a supplemental examination or any other evaluative exercise for the course;
- Impose the obligation to take and pass courses of up to twenty-four (24) credits in addition to the total number of credits required for the student’s program as specified by the Dean;
- Impose a suspension for a period not to exceed six (6) academic terms. Suspensions shall entail the withdrawal of all University privileges, including the right to enter and be upon University premises;
- Expulsion from the University. Expulsion entails the permanent termination of all University privileges.

Furthermore, there may be a permanent notation placed on your academic record.

The complete Academic Code of Conduct can be found at: https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/concordia/offices/provost/docs/Academic-Code-Conduct-2015.pdf.

In Simple Words: ***Do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without saying where you obtained it!***

7.7 Links

Topic	Link
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity
Educational Technology Guidelines	Concordia Educational Technology Guidelines for Faculty and Students (the "Guidelines")
Access Centre for Students with Disabilities	ACSD
Concordia Library Citation & Style Guides	How to cite...
Course Communication Tools	Communication
eConcordia Policies	Policies
Final Exams Information	Final Exams
Helpdesk/Support	FAQ
Multifactor Authentication	MFA for Students
Refunds	Refunds
Technical Requirements	Technical Requirements
Tips for Studying Online	Studying Tips
Tips on how to reach online learning goals (learning modules)	How to Succeed @ eConcordia

PHIL 210 - Critical Thinking
Agenda
Fall 2026

All deadlines indicated are on the due date listed by 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Week 1: September 7 – September 13	
	Lesson 0: About this Course
	Review the Course Outline and Agenda
	Navigate the Course Website
	Purchase textbook
September 7	**Labour Day, university closed**
September 8	**Classes begin**
Week 2: September 14 – September 20	
	Lesson 1: Deductive Argument
September 20	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LESSON REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 1**
Week 3: September 21 – September 27	
	Lesson 2: Evidence Adds Up
September 21	**Deadline to add Fall term courses**
September 21	**Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund (DNE) from fall-term courses**
September 27	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LESSON REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 2**
Week 4: September 28 – October 4	
	Lesson 3: Language, Non-Language, and Argument
October 4	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LESSON REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 3**
Week 5: October 5 – October 11	
	Lesson 4: Fallacies
October 5	First Quiz: Chapters 1, 2, 3
October 10	**Reading week begins**
October 11	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 4**

Mid-Term Break: October 12 – October 18	
October 12	**Thanksgiving Day, university closed**
October 16	**Reading week ends**
Week 6: October 19 – October 25	
	Lesson 5: Critical Thinking about Numbers
October 23	**Last day to submit required documentation to register with the Access Centre for Students with Disabilities and request exam accomodations for Fall 2026 final examination period**
October 25	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 5**
Week 7: October 26 – November 1	
	Lesson 6: Probability and Statistics
November 1	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 6**
Week 8: November 2 – November 8	
	Lesson 7: Biases within Reason
November 2	Second Quiz: Chapters 4, 5, 6
November 8	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 7**
Week 9: November 9 – November 15	
	Lesson 8: The More We Get Together
November 15	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 8**
Week 10: November 16 – November 22	
	Lesson 9: Critical Reasoning about Science
November 16	**Deadline for academic withdrawal (DISC) from fall-term courses**
November 22	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 9**
Week 11: November 23 – November 29	
	Lesson 10: The Mainstream Media
November 23	Third Quiz: Chapters 7, 8, 9
November 29	**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT REFLECTION ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 10**
Week 12: November 30 – December 7	
	Review of material in preparation for the final exam
November 30	**Last day for instructor-scheduled tests or examinations**

December 7	**Last day of classes, Fall term**
Examinations Period: December 8 – December 22	
	Final Exam date and time is posted on your Student Hub