### Course Title
Reasoning and Argumentation

### Course Code
PHI515

### Recommended Study Year
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### No. of Credits/Term
3

### Mode of Tuition
Lecture and Tutorial

### Class Contact Hours
2 hours lecture per week
1 hour tutorial per week

### Category in Major Programme
Philosophical Thinking

### Prerequisite(s)
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### Co-requisite(s)
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### Exclusion(s)
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### Exemption Requirement(s)
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**Brief Course Description**

This course presents a systematic study of the principles of both deductive and informal reasoning, with an emphasis on reasoning and argumentation in ordinary discourse, and on their strategies. The aim of the course is to train the student in the skills of argument analysis, argument construction, and argument evaluation. The course will familiarize students with the vocabulary and grammar of various kinds of logic, and enable them to master the basic techniques in validity of arguments. Inductive reasoning, causal reasoning and inductive fallacies will also be addressed. Lastly, the applications of logic to everyday life will be examined, as well as its use in solving logical puzzles.

**Aims**
1. Recognize the form of arguments presented in natural language;
2. Develop the skills of argument analysis, argument construction, and argument evaluation;
3. Identify common fallacies in reasoning.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. master the basic skills of argument analysis;
2. be aware of the various pitfalls of language uses and common fallacies;
3. distinguish good reasons from bad ones for accepting a claim.
4. gain skills necessary for good discursive writing
5. effectively argue for or against a proposition in a debate format

**Indicative Content**

1. Critical Thinking
2. Applied and Academic Debate
3. Stating the Controversy
4. Analyzing the Controversy
5. Evidence and Tests of Evidence
6. The Structure of Reasoning
7. Types of Reasoning
8. Obstacles to Clear Thinking
9. Refutation
10. Evaluating the Debate

**Teaching Method**

In the lectures, general principles are illustrated with examples. The tutorials will be spent on
discussion of questions and doing exercises.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1. Students will take both a mid-term and a final examination in which they will be able to demonstrate their mastery of the reading and lecture material.
2. Students’ term papers will be assessed on their ability to write their paper based on an effective and interesting introduction, a central thesis, the manner in which that thesis is supported, the quality of research and their overall writing skills.
3. Students will be assessed on not only on regular class attendance, but also on their participation in class. Students will also be assessed on the quality of their preparation of their debate projects. This will include individual presentation and arguing skills, as well as quality of preparation and research.

Assessment
40% Tutorial performance and exercises.
60% Examination

Required Readings

Supplementary Readings
李天命《語理分析的思考方法》 (香港：青年書屋，一九八一年).
余錦波，《思考常識》 (香港：嶺南學院出版社，一九九四).
李天命《李天命的思考藝術》 (香港：明報出版社，一九九零).
何秀煌 (1984),《邏輯》, 台北：東華書局.