

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF
ARTS EDUCATION AND COMMERCE**

COURSE: PH 1250
3 credits, University Transfer
Winter '97

INSTRUCTOR: John O. Langenbach

LOCATION: Office C401 Phone 539-2992
Home 9533 Wedgewood Dr. S. Phone 532-8413

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Elementary methods and principles for analysing arguments will be covered. Topics may include informal fallacies, introduction of scientific method, elementary statistical reasoning, elementary propositional logic, rational decision procedures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve the student's ability to analyze and critique arguments in ordinary language;
2. Introduce the student to some elements of scientific method;
3. Introduce the student to some of the theory and elements of statistical reasoning; and
4. Improve the student's ability to present clear and concise arguments.

GRADING CRITERIA:

1. Written work will be graded on the 1-9 stanine basis.
2. Assignments will be graded on both accuracy and quality of expression.
3. Course grades will be determined by averaging grades on all of the written assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Exams (60% of course grade. 3 exams worth 20% each of course grade)

Each student shall write three one hour exams. The first two exams may be rewritten to improve performance and grades provided that:

1. The first writing of each exam is done on the date indicated in the Course Schedule.
2. The student has not had more than 2 unexcused absences from the lectures leading up to each of the exams.
3. The instructor has the time and energy to handle the additional marking load. I will guarantee your being able to rewrite at least the first exam and the Fallacies Notebook.

Fallacies Notebook (25% of course grade)

Each student shall write a notebook analyzing selected types of mistakes found in reasoning on radio and T.V., and in newspapers, magazines, etc. See criteria under Exams, above, for rewrite privileges.

Quizes (15% of course grade)

It is essential that you complete the assigned readings and exercises prior to attending class. To insure that you don't fall behind, there will be regular quizzes using problems taken from the exercises. Since it is assumed that you have already attempted the exercises the quizzes will be very short (never more than 10 minutes).

As further incentive to take readings and exercises seriously, students who average a grade of '7' or better on the exercises will be excused, but not precluded from taking the exam on that section.

CHEERFUL POSTSCRIPT

Because of my belief in competency based learning, those who attend class and put out honest effort will be given every opportunity to do well in PH 1250. If we are all sincere in our efforts, no one will fail. Everyone will do well. Last semester no one flunked PH 1250. The average grade, because of rewrites, was close to a '7'. Let's beat that this semester.

If you run into trouble, see me! Don't drop the course unless you discover that this course, the most enjoyable and enlightening course in the universe, is of no interest to you. If your only problem is grades, we can do something about that.

Finally, please note that though I'm convinced that this is an important course in any university student's education, I am not so arrogant as to think that all share my opinion. This course should take up about 20% of your study time, since it comprises 20% of a full course load. In all past evaluations of my course the question concerning the level of difficulty indicates that it is of average or a slight bit above average when compared to all other courses. That is where I want the course to be. Anyone can design a course that a rock could pass or a course, even basketweaving, that no one could pass. Neither extreme is an indication of quality teaching.