

CRITICAL THINKING & ARGUMENTATION

SYLLABUS FOR THE COURSE
FALL – WINTER 2019/2020

STUDIES PROGRAMME

Criminal Justice

Faculty of Law, Administration, and Economics

University of Wrocław

LECTURERS

Dr. Maciej Pichlak | Department of Legal Theory and Philosophy of Law (lectures)

Mgr. Jakub Łakomy | Department of Legal Theory and Philosophy of Law (seminar classes)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The course aims at providing students with practical skills in argumentation and critical thinking. It makes students familiar with general principles of rational argumentation and basic forms of arguments both in theoretical and practical discourse.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To acquaint students with the general principles of correct reasoning and basic types of arguments.
2. To acquire skills in critical thinking, constructing and assessing arguments.
3. To develop students' analytical and communicational competences.
4. To make students familiar with fundamental features of language and linguistic communication
5. To provide students with basic skills in building and understanding speech acts.

BASIC READING

Leo A. Groarke, Christopher W. Tindale, *Good Reasoning Matters! A Constructive Approach to Critical Thinking*, 5th ed., Oxford University Press 2013. **(Hereinafter as: GRM)**

Ronald Munson, David Conway, Andrew Black, *The Elements of Reasoning*, 4th ed., Thomson Wadsworth, 2004 **(Hereinafter as: EoR)**

TOPICS AND LITERATURE

1. Recognizing arguments; distinguishing between argumentative and non-argumentative speech acts.
Reading: GRM 1.1; 1.2; EoR 1
2. The structure of argument; extracting premises and a conclusion
Reading: GRM 4.1-4.3, EoR 1
3. Argument Diagramming
Reading: GRM 5.1-5.6, EoR 2
4. Hidden elements in an argument (enthymematic arguments)
Reading: GRM 6.1-6.3
5. Inductive Arguments
Reading: GRM 9.1
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/induction-problem/>
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-inductive/>
6. Abductive arguments
Reading: GRM 9.3
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/abduction/>
7. Analogy
Reading: GRM 11.2, EoR 7
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reasoning-analogy/>
8. Argument from Authority
Reading: GRM 12.3
https://ojs.uwindsor.ca/ojs/leddy/index.php/informal_logic/article/download/2424/1866
9. Evaluating arguments
GRM 3, 8, 13, EoR 3, 4
10. Fallacies in argumentation
EoR 8, 10

ADDITIONAL READING

1. GRM: resting parts, particularly chapters 1-6
2. Informal Logic: A Pragmatic Approach, 2nd ed., Walton D., Cambridge University Press. Cambridge 2008
3. Practical Logic, Ziemiński Z., D. Reidel Publ.. Dordrecht, Boston, MA 1976
4. How to Win Every Argument. The Use and Abuse of Logic, Pirie M., Continuum. London, New York 2006

ECTS CREDITS

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