Chances, Choices, and Everyday Reasoning

PHL 145QR
Reasoning and Probability

Offered On Campus and Online

Philosophy courses in critical reasoning teach us how to think more clearly and carefully about every issue. Consider the questions we all have about the coronavirus...

- How could one tell if one has it, as opposed to some other ailment if one has symptoms? In order to do that, one needs to understand how to reason about what causes what. We cover that!

- How likely is it that one get the coronavirus? We cover how to reason with and calculate probabilities.

- We also discuss how to use information about probabilities to make rational decisions. Once one figures out what the likelihood of getting COVID-19 is, how do we use that information? Suppose you need something from the grocery store--at what point is it worth that trip? We develop a method for handling that information!

- Finally, we bring this all together and talk about bell curves and how useful they are, and how they connect to scientific reasoning.

A study of modern inductive reasoning, with emphasis on causal reasoning, probabilities, and decision theory as they relate to daily life.

☑️ Satisfies UP II-B
☑️ Quantitative Reasoning (QR)

This course was great preparation for my major's course in statistics and methods! Everyone else is struggling with probabilities, and I already know how to think this way.

Philosophy at CMU
Rethink what you think you know.
Philosophy Courses in Critical Reasoning

Same course, new title...

Effective Fall 2020, some of our critical reasoning courses in Philosophy will have new course titles. The 100-level courses are each self-standing and not in a sequence.

PHL 140: Introduction to Symbolic Logic
(previously Introduction to Logic)
A study of modern formal logic, with emphasis on the development of general procedures for deciding whether any argument is correct.
> Satisfies UP II-B
> Note: Required course for the PHL major. Students considering a major in philosophy are advised to take this course instead of PHL 141QR.

PHL 141QR: Introduction to Logical Problem Solving
(previously Applied Logic)
An introduction to logic, with a focus on its applications.
> Satisfies UP II-B
> Quantitative Reasoning

PHL 145QR: Chances, Choices, and Everyday Reasoning
(previously Reasoning and Probability)
A study of modern inductive reasoning, with emphasis on causal reasoning, probabilities, and decision theory as they relate to daily life.
> Satisfies UP II-B
> Quantitative Reasoning

PHL 340: Advanced Symbolic Logic
(previously Intermediate Logic)
First order quantificational theory is presented as a paradigm of formal theories. In terms of this, some metatheoretic and non-classical notions are introduced.
Prerequisite: PHL 140 or 141QR

Philosophy teaches critical thinking, creative problem solving, and clear communication.

Whether counted toward the University Program or a philosophy major or minor, the study of philosophy builds a strong foundation for personal, professional, and civic life.

Our certificate in Critical Reasoning offers students a way to demonstrate focused study and development of these high-demand skills.

CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL REASONING

Philosophy 12 credits

Choose two:
PHL 105: Critical Thinking in Everyday Life
PHL 140: Introduction to Symbolic Logic (II-B)
PHL 141QR: Introduction to Logical Problem Solving (II-B)
PHL 145QR: Chances, Choices, and Everyday Reasoning (II-B)

Note: Students may count PHL 140 or PHL 141, but not both.

Choose two:
PHL 320: Theory of Knowledge
PHL 340: Advanced Symbolic Logic
PHL 348: Decision Theory
PHL 390: Philosophy of Science

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