

Philosophy (PHIL) 152

Basics in Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing (Revision 7)

Delivery Mode: Individualized Study Online [↗](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of Study: Arts, or Humanities (Non-Business)

Prerequisites: None

Precluded: None

Challenge: PHIL 152 is not available for Challenge.

Faculty: Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences [↗](#)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#) [↗](#)
for the current revision [✕](#)



Overview

PHIL 152 is a pre-university-level, three-credit course designed to help you develop basic critical thinking, reading, and writing skills in preparation for more advanced university-level work. The course teaches an active, critical approach to develop skills in evaluating reading that is extended to your own written work. Critical thinking involves making judgements (such as whether or not to believe a certain statement), analyzing qualities of passages, and evaluating comparative worth. As a reader, a critical stance enables you to assess implications and draw justifiable conclusions from materials you encounter. As a writer, you will develop effective methods for approaching, planning, and completing related writing assignments.

Outline

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Part A: Comprehension and Organizational Skills

- Unit 1: Critical Thinking: Three Step Method and Three Point Focus
- Unit 2: Active Reading and Critical Thinking
- Unit 3: Grammar, Punctuation, and Meaning
- Unit 4: Generating and Organizing Ideas
- Unit 5: Writing Functions

Part B: Evaluation

- Unit 6: Argument Analysis and Evaluation
- Unit 7: Deductive Arguments
- Unit 8: Inductive Arguments
- Unit 9: Fallacies and Essay Writing



➤ Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to help you become a critical thinker; a more alert and critical reader; and a writer who is better able to both assess the reasonableness of your own ideas, and to communicate them clearly and effectively. When you have completed this course you should be able to:

1. Analyse and understand the content of complex university-level material.
2. Plan, write, and edit paragraphs and short essays to maximize the clarity and effectiveness of communication.
3. Identify errors, omissions, and faulty reasoning, both in reading materials and in your own work.
4. Evaluate ideas in reading materials.
5. Examine and formulate your own thinking processes more effectively.


➤ Evaluation

Evaluation

Your final mark for Philosophy 152: Basics in Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing is based on your grades in five written assignments, as well as two activities and two skills modules. To **receive credit** [↗](#) for PHIL 152, you must complete all assignments and achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [📄](#). The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Study Plan and Introductory Forum	2%
Assignment 1	10%

Activity	Weight
Assignment 2	10%
Academic Integrity Skills Module	2%
MLA Documentation Skills Module	2%
Assignment 3	14%
Assignment 4a	25%
Assignment 4b	35%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

Materials

Flachmann, Kim, Michael Flachmann, Alexandra MacLennan, and Jamie Zeppa.
Reader's Choice: Essays for Thinking, Reading, and Writing. 7th Canadian ed.
 Toronto: Pearson, 2013.  (Print)





Other Materials

This course includes two online study guides.

Important Links



Important Links

- › [Academic Advising](#) 
- › [Program Planning](#) 
- › [Request Assistance](#) 
- › [Student Services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized-study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 7, January 12, 2017

Updated September 13, 2021, by Student & Academic Services

View [previous revision](#) 

