

Critical Reasoning, PHIL105.012&014 Fall, 2009

Peter Amato, MacAlister 5030, extension 1353, peterama@drexel.edu

Office hours: T 10-11:30; Th, F 3:30-5:00 and other times by appointment

Study Guide for Midterm Exam - Hi. Next **Tuesday, October 27** is our Midterm Exam. It is a challenging exam, but if you have been reading the material carefully and using the Exercise Sets to develop your skills, you will do fine with some careful preparation using this study guide. This study guide tells you everything you'll need to study for the exam. If you have any questions, please let me know. The exam is worth 25% of your grade for this course.

Part 1. Questions – There will be **five** questions from this list to answer, like in the first part of both Exercise Sets. (10 pts. each)

1. Explain fully and carefully why the word “critical” is included in the title of this course.
2. Explain carefully what the term “bias” means in the context of this course.
3. Explain why is it important to remember that being reasonable doesn't always mean being objective.
4. Explain the central aim and the main methods of philosophy. Why is critical reasoning so central to philosophy?
5. Define the term “argument” as it is used in logic, and explain the basic difference between logic and rhetoric. Give an original example of an argument and identify its conclusion and premises.
6. Identify the four main elements of an argument, and explain the role each element plays. Then explain what logical indicators are. Give an original example of an argument with at least one indicator in it. Identify the indicator and tell what type it is.
7. Explain in depth what “foundational assumptions” are, how they differ from premises and other kinds of assumptions, and why identifying them is a good habit for critical reasoners to develop.
8. Identify and carefully explain the three questions to ask for assessing deductive arguments.
9. Define the term “argument” as it is used in logic, and explain the basic difference between logic and rhetoric. Give an original example of an argument and identify its conclusion and premises.
10. Fully explain the differences between deductive and inductive inference based on our class discussion of these terms.
11. Carefully and completely identify the three main characteristics of deductive and inductive arguments. Which type makes up the majority of arguments in the sciences?
12. Give a clear and careful definition for “inductive fallacy” and “deductive fallacy,” and provide an original example of each.

Part 2.1 Argument Analyses — There will be **five** arguments to analyze using the four-step method, like in Ex Set #1. (30 points)

Part 2.2 Deductive Inference Recognition — There will be **eight** deductive arguments to match with their valid deductive pattern or deductive fallacy pattern, like in the last part of Exercise Set #2. (20 points)