



Think Again: How to Reason and Argue

Duke University

STUDENT NAME

Elma Middel

GRADE

86.7%

COMPLETION DATE

June 12th 2014

NOTES

Student has earned a certificate with distinction.

COURSE DETAILS

Instructors: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Ram Neta

Duration of course: 12 weeks

Time commitment: 5-6 hours/week

Description:

Reasoning is important. This course will teach you how to do it well. You will learn some simple but vital rules to follow in thinking about any topic at all and some common and tempting mistakes to avoid in reasoning. We will discuss how to identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments by other people (including politicians, used car salesmen, and teachers) and how to construct arguments of your own in order to help you decide what to believe or what to do. These skills will be useful in dealing with whatever matters most to you.

Syllabus:

PART I: HOW TO ANALYZE ARGUMENTS

Week 1: How to Spot an Argument

Week 2: How to Untangle an Argument

Week 3: How to Reconstruct an Argument

Quiz #1: At the end of Week 3, students will take their first quiz.

PART II: HOW TO EVALUATE DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS

Week 4: Propositional Logic and Truth Tables

Week 5: Categorical Logic and Syllogisms

Week 6: Representing Information

Quiz #2: At the end of Week 6, students will take their second quiz.

PART III: HOW TO EVALUATE INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS

Week 7: Inductive Arguments

Week 8: Causal Reasoning

Week 9: Chance and Choice

Quiz #3: At the end of Week 9, students will take their third quiz.

PART IV: HOW TO MESS UP ARGUMENTS

Week 10: Fallacies of Unclarity

Week 11: Fallacies of Relevance and of Vacuity

Week 12: Refutation

Quiz #4: At the end of Week 12, students will take their fourth quiz.

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong
Stillman Professor of Practical Ethics Department
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DISTINCTION

The student's performance in this course met the standard for Distinction as defined by the course instructor.

Distinction Grading Policy

Students receive a Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction with distinction when their average score on four quizzes is 85 or higher.

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