

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE:** CRITICAL THINKING

**TERM:** Fall 2018 (20189): Sept–Dec

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Pamela J. Reeve

**SCHEDULE:** Tuesday, 2–4 pm  
First class: 11 September 2018

**REGISTRATION:** Limited to 20 students

**LOCATION:** Muzzo Family Alumni Hall  
121 St. Joseph Street, Toronto  
Classroom AH 206

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A course focused on developing skills in natural reasoning: identification and evaluation of arguments and explanations; deductive and inductive reasoning; criteria of evidence and cogency; fallacies; inference to the best explanation. Lectures with demonstration of problems; weekly assignments.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The aim of this course is practical: to acquire and hone a skill-set that will support students in their academic reading, research, and writing. The ability to reason effectively is integral to theological understanding. The truths of the Christian faith must be presented in a reasonable and coherent manner in today's world. Through regular exercises, students will systematically develop the power of critical thinking and the capacity for reasoned judgments involving various forms of inference: deductive, inductive, analogical, causal, and explanatory. Students will learn and practice testing procedures and criteria for evaluating the cogency of arguments and the adequacy of explanations. The course concludes with an overview of the application of critical thinking to issues in health, law, and ethics.

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*The Power of Critical Thinking*, **Fourth Canadian Edition**, Lewis Vaughn & Chris MacDonald (Oxford University Press, 2016). The text is on order at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College Street (416-640-5840).

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

11 weekly homework assignments (8% each); final assignment (12%)