Whether you are conscious of it or not, arguments play an important part in your life. For instance, someone is always offering you some argument to persuade you that you ought to believe or act in a certain way. Arguments can concern such diverse activities as rearing children, politics, grocery shopping, breaking a horse to ride, putting in a fence, designing the electrical circuitry for a new house, determining whether a Supreme Court decision was sound, or figuring your taxes. So, whether you are a homemaker, a doctor, a lawyer, a nuclear physicist, a minister, or a citizen trying to cast an intelligent vote, the ability to construct or identify good arguments can affect the way you think and act. It is also helpful to know when you are faced with a poor argument. By evaluating arguments one can avoid dangerously constructed houses, unwise laws, and fractious horses.

The purpose of Philosophy 312 is to help students recognize arguments and evaluate them. Four different types of logic are examined: categorical syllogistic logic; propositional logic and natural deduction; predicate logic; and informal fallacies and less formal ways of assessing arguments. Students will come away being able to form better arguments and to recognize good or bad arguments.

Prerequisites
None.

Course Organization
This course is divided into two learning modules containing a total of seven lessons. Each lesson contains a reading assignment, instructor’s comments, and practice exercises. All lessons within a learning module must be completed before moving onto the next module. An instructor is available via a message center to provide feedback and respond to questions.

Topics include:

Module 1
Lesson 1: Basic Concepts
Lesson 2: Categorical Propositions
Lesson 3: Categorical Syllogisms
Lesson 4: Propositional Logic

Module 2
Lesson 5: Natural Deduction
Lesson 6: Predicate Logic
Lesson 7: Informal Fallacies
**Required Materials**


**Grading**

The course consists of five instructor-graded assignments, a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Both exams must be taken in a proctored location, with arrangements to be made by the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor-Graded Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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In addition to earning the minimum number of points on assignments to receive a passing grade, students must earn a score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

This course is independent study and is self-paced. Students have five months upon registration in which to complete all coursework, with an additional thirty days allotted for completion of the final exam.

**University Extension**

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit [www.utextension.org](http://www.utextension.org). Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or [uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu). Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.