

PHIL 125: Practical Logic
Winter 2023 - Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM

Instructor: Dr. Peter Andes

Description

How can we sort out what is true from what is false? Can we ever have justified beliefs? How do we avoid committing logical fallacies and what methods are there for determining which theories, in everyday life and scientific practice, are most likely to be true? How do we sort out weird theories that turn out to be true from conspiracy theories that are wildly wrong?

In this course we answer these questions. We cover elementary methods and principles for analyzing reasoning as it occurs in everyday contexts. We study informal logical fallacies, the scientific method, elementary statistical reasoning, and elementary propositional logic, in addition to exploring the study of argument in contemporary debates about issues of social concern. Throughout the course, students will develop a critical thinking toolkit that enables them to identify fake news and misinformation and avoid being duped and manipulated.