

# Logic, Reasoning, and Persuasion (01:730:101)

Rutgers University, Summer 2013

<b>Time</b>	6:00–10:00 PM, Monday & Wednesday, May 28th–July 5th
<b>Location</b>	Room 115, <a href="#">Murray Hall</a> , College Ave
<b>Instructor</b>	<a href="#">Peter van Elswyk</a>

## 1 Description

The aim of this introductory course is for you to become a better thinker. We will chase after this goal by studying and regularly practicing how to identify and assess arguments. Along the way, a number of smaller pedagogical objectives will be accomplished:

- (1) Learn what distinguishes **arguments** from assertions.
- (2) Learn how to identify the various **kinds** of arguments.
- (3) Learn how to **construct** and **reconstruct** arguments.
- (4) Learn techniques for **evaluating** an argument.
- (5) Learn what makes an argument **persuasive**.

This class satisfies the *O* requirement for the [Arts and Humanities](#) part of the [Core Curriculum](#). The description of the *O* requirement is this: *Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.*

## 2 Textbook

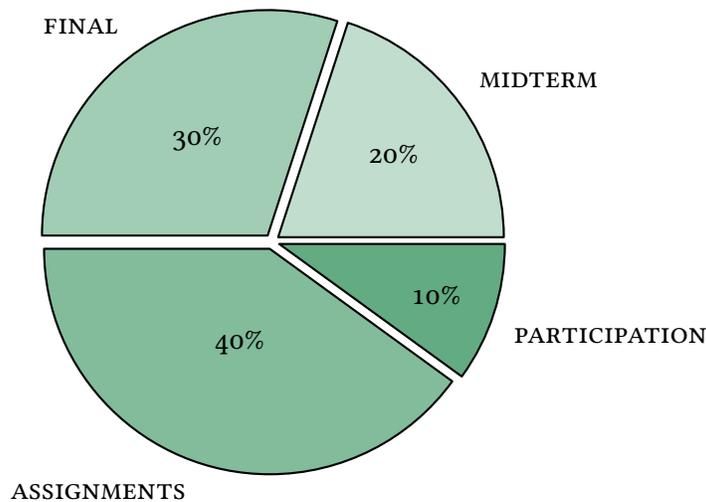
The textbook is the second edition of Richard Feldman's *Reason and Argument*. The book's ISBN number is 0136246028. The book will be made available in the school bookstore and I will put some copies on reserve at [Alexander](#). The first chapter will be available on Sakai.

### 3 Attendance

I expect students to attend every class. If you cannot attend a class session, please report your absence at <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. Absences will only be excused if they are accompanied by a Dean's note.

### 4 Evaluation

There are a total of 500 points that can be earned. These points can be earned in **exams** (250 pts), **homework** (200 pts), and **participation** (50 pts). There will be one midterm worth 100 pts, one final worth 150 pts, five assignments worth 40 pts each, and ten opportunities to earn 5 pts for participation. Participation points can only be lost. In class, there will be individual and group exercises. I will randomly select students to present solutions. If you are absent when called, you lose participation points for that day.



The final grade will be calculated from the total points earned. The letter grades correspond to the following point totals:

- A 450–500 pts (90–100%)
- B 400–449 pts (80–89%)
- C 350–399 pts (70–79%)
- D 300–349 pts (60–69%)
- F 250–299 pts (50–59%)

## 5 Schedule

Dates	Reading Due	Homework Due	Topics
5/29	Chapter 1 (optional)		Arguments
6/3	Chapter 2	Assignment 1	Truth and rationality
6/5	Chapter 3		Well-formed arguments
6/10	Chapter 4	Assignment 2	Strong arguments
6/12	Chapter 5		Reconstructing args
6/17	Chapter 6	Assignment 3	<b>Midterm</b> , reconstruction
6/19	Chapter 7, 8		Evaluating, testimony
6/24	Chapter 9	Assignment 4	Statistical arguments
6/26	Chapter 10		Causal arguments
7/1	Chapter 10	Assignment 5	Causal arguments
7/3	Review Sheet		<b>Final Exam</b>

## 6 Late policy

I will accept late assignments, but 8 pts will be deducted from the assignment for every day the assignment is late. The latest you can turn in work is five days after it was due. There is one exception: with a Dean's note, you can turn in homework late without being penalized.

## 7 Academy integrity

I expect students to follow the academic integrity policy for all of the required assignments and tests. If you are confused about what counts as plagiarism or cheating, consult the policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>.

## 8 Sakai

I will be making frequent use of Sakai. You can access the portal for Sakai at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>. In addition to being the place where I post lecture slides and announcements, you will sometimes turn in your assignments through the Assignments tab.

## 9 Disability

If you're differently abled and need accommodation, you are encouraged to work with a Coordinator from the [Office of Disability Services](#). They will provide you with an official notice for you to give me, which will detail what we can do to help you succeed in this class.

## 10 Office hours

To accommodate your diverse summer schedules and the fact that the philosophy department is in the process of moving buildings, I will mostly be holding office hours by appointment. Send me an email at [peter.vanelswyk@rutgers.edu](mailto:peter.vanelswyk@rutgers.edu) and we will arrange a time that works for you. I will also hold regular office hours in the Starbucks in the bottom of the [Gateway Building](#) on the College Ave Campus on Fridays from 1:00-3:00PM.