To assert a belief is simple. To defend a belief is a far more difficult enterprise. This is a class in practical reasoning. The aim of this course is the development of effective critical thinking skills which will allow students to analyze and assess arguments encountered in everyday life as well as to formulate strong arguments of their own.

Topics to be discussed include inductive and deductive arguments, validity and soundness, syllogistic and probabilistic reasoning, analogical reasoning, the use (and misuse) of statistics, evaluating causal hypotheses, distinguishing genuine science from pseudoscience, and common logical fallacies.

Highly recommended for philosophers, pre-Law students, and those planning on taking graduate school entrance exams, such as the GRE.

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