

HLTH 4108 – Verbal Reasoning for Pre-Health

Section: 001

Instructor: A. Doyen Rainey

Class Hours & Location: F: 10:00-10:50 CB2 1.206

Instructor Email: doyen.rainey@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: Wed 1:30-4:30 pm, FO 2.210

Course Description:

This course develops professional-level text analysis skills critical to lifelong success in science and the health professions. Students analyze connotation, content and rhetorical structure, evaluate relationships and authorial perspective, and practice answering questions.

Required Materials:

- UT Dallas student email account
- Access to eLearning
- **Orsay, David. *101 Passages in MCAT Verbal Reasoning*. Examkrakers, 2008.**

Recommended Materials:

- AAMC.org - The Official Guide to MCAT 2015 (\$19 on Amazon.com)
- AAMC.org - practice tests
- AAMC.org - Learning modules by Khan Academy (FREE!)

Course Objectives:

- Each student will create for himself or herself a personalized, effective pattern of thinking, reading, and writing in the classical tradition.
Students will...
 - Practice inference skills
 - Practice logical reasoning and improve speed
 - Build vocabulary
 - Improve mental focus and reading effectiveness
 - Become familiar with the format, pace, and style of standardized reasoning tests

Grading:

- Attendance40%
- Homework Completion.....50% - IF YOU MISS A CLASS, CONTACT INSTRUCTOR AND RETRIVE ASSIGNMENTS FROM ELEARNING.
LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.
- Final VR Test Completion..10%

Attendance:

This discussion-based class involves collaborative learning and interactive exercises to explore a variety of topics. It is critical that you attend entire classes, take part in the activities, and contribute to the class dynamic.

Arriving more than 5 minutes late constitutes a **tardy**, awarding only half credit for attendance. Arriving more than 15 minutes late constitutes an **absence**.

For an **excused absence**, you must:

- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor **before** the class day to be missed.
- Students missing class for an athletic or academic team performance must provide the appropriate paperwork **2 weeks** before the class day to be missed.
- In the case of an emergency the student must notify the instructor by e-mail.

IF YOU MISS A CLASS, CONTACT INSTRUCTOR AND RETRIVE ASSIGNMENTS FROM ELEARNING. *LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.*

Course Schedule:

1. **8/28/2015:** Intro, Personal Info Sheets, discuss MCAT VR format and scoring
2. **9/4/2015:** Intro to Epistemology – How humans find truth
3. **9/11/2015:** Logic and Fallacy I – Analyze claims for validity
4. **9/18/2015:** Logic and Fallacy II – Analyze claims for validity
5. **9/25/2015:** Strengthen and Weaken – Would <fact> strengthen or weaken <claim>?
6. **10/2/2015:** Correcting Fallacies
7. **10/9/2015:** The End of Logic
8. **10/16/2015:** Reading Like a Judge
9. **10/23/2015:** Wax On, Wax Off
10. **10/30/2015:** Applied Critical Reading
11. **11/6/2015:** 4 Common Foils
12. **11/13/2015:** Direct Reference
13. **11/20/2015:** Inference
- 11/27/2015:** HAPPY THANKSGIVING
14. **12/4/2015:** Metacomprehension

Final Exam (online)

BONUS - Jedi Mind Tricks (online)

Technical Support If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year. The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html> A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one week advance notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion. OSA is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at (972) 883-2098, or by email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Religious Holy Days The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment. If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.