

# Friday April 8, 2011 Schedule for the Day

Am: Critical Reasoning

- Comment's on Friday's Assignment
- Discussion of Today's Assignment
- Workshop on new material: Principle of Charitable Interpretation /  
Using the list of Common Argument Patterns

Pm: Ethical Reasoning

- Review of Friday's Topics
- Discussion of Subjectivism
- Discussion of Religion and Morality, especial divine  
commandment theory

## Comments on Critical Reasoning Assignment for Friday, April 1

Look for Structure

**Simplify**      Remove indicator words

**Be charitable**      If possible Reconstruct the argument according to one of the “common successful argument patterns

## Discussion of Chapter 2 Exercise 2.2 even

2. Either the government should protect children from abuse and neglect by their parents, or it should reinstitute orphanages. The government will not protect children from abuse and neglect by their parents. The government should reinstitute orphanages.

*(1) Either the government should protect children from abuse and neglect by their parents, or it should reinstitute orphanages.*

*(2) The government will not protect children from abuse and neglect by their parents.*  
*∴ The government should reinstitute orphanages.*

(1) Either A or B

(2) not A

∴ B.

Disjunctive Argument

4. You will dread growing older. If you take too much pride in your physical appearance, you will dread growing older. You take too much pride in your physical appearance.

*(1) If you take too much pride in your physical appearance, you will dread growing older.*

*(2) You take too much pride in your physical appearance.*

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*∴ You will dread growing older.*

(1) If A, then B

(2) A

∴ B.

Modus Ponens

6. If you respected my opinion, you would seek my advice. You don't seek my advice. You don't respect my opinion

*(1) If you respected my opinion, then you would seek my advice.*

*(2) You don't seek my advice.*

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*∴ You don't respect my opinion.*

*(1) If A, then B.*

*Modus Tollens*

*(2) Not B.*

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*∴ Not A.*

8. All judges must sometimes be interpreters of the law. All interpreters of the law are judicial activists. All judges must sometimes be judicial activists.

*(1) All judges must sometimes be interpreters of the law.*

*(2) All interpreters of the law are judicial activists.*

*∴ All judges must sometimes be judicial activists.*

*(1) All  $P_1$ s are  $P_2$ s.*

*(2) All  $P_2$ s are  $P_3$ s.*

*∴ All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_3$ 's.*

*Universal Syllogism*

10. The ban on selling hypodermic needles should be lifted. If we want to combat AIDS, then we must prevent drug users from sharing dirty needles. If we must prevent the sharing of dirty needles, then the ban on selling needles should be lifted. And obviously, we do want to combat AIDS.

*(1) If we want to combat AIDS, then we must prevent drug users from sharing dirty needles.*

*(2) If we must prevent the sharing of dirty needles, then the ban on selling needles should be lifted.*

*(3) We want to combat AIDS.*

*∴ The ban on selling hypodermic needles should be lifted.*

*(1) If A, then B.*

*(2) If B, then C.*

*(3) A.*

*∴ C.*

*Chain Argument*

**(This is pattern v, with the order of premises changed.)**

12. Couples should be discouraged from marrying young. Marriage requires a great adjustment. If marriage requires a great adjustment and the young find such adjustment difficult, they should be discouraged from marrying. The young find adjustment to the demands of marriage difficult.

*(1) Marriage takes a great adjustment.*

*(2) If it takes a great adjustment, and the young find such adjustment difficult, they should be discouraged from marrying.*

*(3) The young find adjustment to the demands of marriage difficult.*

*∴ Couples should be discouraged from marrying young.*

*(1) A.*

*(2) If A and B, then C.*

*(3) B.*

*∴ C.*

**(This is a variation of modus ponens with “A and B” as the antecedent)**



## Discussion of Chapter 2 Exercise 2.3B even

2. If your relationship with your spouse were based on fair exchanges, then it would be stable. It is not stable. Your relationship with your spouse is not based on fair exchanges.

*(1) If your relationship with your spouse were based on fair exchanges then it would be stable.*

*(2) It is not stable.*

*∴ Your relationship with your spouse is not based on fair exchanges.*

*(1) If A, then B .*

*(2) Not B.*

*∴ Not A.*

*Modus Tollens*

4. Anyone who deceives other people is guilty of a form of coercion. Anyone who deceives others is manipulating their choices. Anyone who manipulates the choices of others is guilty of a form of coercion.

(1) *Anyone who deceives others is  
manipulating their choices.*  
(2) *Anyone who manipulates the choices of  
others is guilty of a form of coercion.*  
*∴ Anyone who deceives others is guilty of  
a form of coercion.*

(1) *All  $P_1$ s are  $P_2$ s.*  
(2) *All  $P_2$ s are  $P_3$ s.*  
*∴ All  $P_1$ s are  $P_3$ s.*

*Universal Syllogism*

6. Alvin has not fulfilled the graduation requirements. If he has fulfilled the graduation requirements, then he is eligible for graduation. Alvin is not eligible for graduation.

*(1) If Alvin has fulfilled the graduation requirements, then he is eligible for graduation.*

*(2) Alvin is not eligible for graduation.*

*∴ Alvin has not fulfilled the graduation requirements.*

*(1) If A, then B.*

*(2) Not B.*

*∴ Not A.*

**Modus Tollens**

8. Students will not become more interested in learning for its own sake. Universities will become more vocationally oriented. Either students will become more interested in learning for its own sake or universities will become more vocationally oriented

*(1) Either students will become more interested in learning for its own sake, or universities will become more vocationally oriented.*

*(2) Students will not become more interested in learning for its own sake.*

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*∴ Universities will become more vocationally oriented.*

*(1) Either A or B.*

*(2) Not A.*

*∴ B.*

**Disjunctive Argument**

**Note: The order of the premises altered to fit the standard version of the pattern.**

10. Casual sex is justifiable in some cases. If some people can't find a partner who is willing to enter a serious relationship, casual sex is their only alternative to abstinence. Some people can't find a partner who is willing to enter a serious relationship. If casual sex is the only alternative to abstinence for some people, then casual sex is justifiable in some cases.

*(1) Some people can't find a partner who is willing to enter a serious relationship.*

*(2) If (1), then casual sex is their only alternative to abstinence.*

*(3) If casual sex is the only alternative to abstinence for some people, then casual sex is justifiable in some cases.*

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*∴ Casual sex is justifiable in some cases.*

*(1) A.*

*(2) If A, then B.*

*(3) If B, then C.*

*∴ C.*

*Chain Argument*

## Discussion of Chapter 2 Exercise 2.3C even

2. We shouldn't abolish capital punishment. If we do, prisons will become more crowded. If prisons become more crowded, then we will have to build more prisons. We don't want to build more prisons.

*(1) If we abolish capital punishment, then prisons will become more crowded.*

*(2) If prisons become more crowded, then we will have to build more prisons.*

*(3) We don't want to build more prisons.*

*∴ We shouldn't abolish capital punishment.*

*(Note that premise 3 is not precisely the denial of the consequent of premise 2. We are using "not C" to mean something broader than denial here..*

*(1) If A, then B.*

*(2) If B, then C.*

*(3) Not C.*

*∴ Not A.*

*A reverse chain-like  
version of modus tollens*

*As two separate*

*Modus Tollens Arguments*

*(1) If B, then C.*

*(2) Not C.*

*∴ Not B.*

*(1) Not B.*

*(2) If A, then B.*

*∴ Not A*

4. If we really want to provide universal health care, then we must either ration some medical procedures or deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford. We really want to provide universal health care. We must not deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford. We must ration some medical procedures.

*(1) If we really want to provide universal health then we must either ration some medical procedures, or deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford.*

*(2) We really want to provide universal health care.*

*(3) We must not deploy more resources toward  
health care than our society can afford.*

*∴ We must ration some medical procedures.*

*(1) If A, then B or C.*

*(2) A.*

*(3) Not C.*

*∴ B.*

*(1) If A, then B or C.      A version of Modus Ponens*

*(2) A.*

*∴ B or C.*

*(1) Either B or C.*

*(2) Not C.*

*∴ B.*

*Disjunctive Argument*

4. If we really want to provide universal health care, then we must either ration some medical procedures or deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford. We really want to provide universal health care. We must not deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford. We must ration some medical procedures.

*(1) If we really want to provide universal health then we must either ration some medical procedures, or deploy more resources toward health care than our society can afford.*

*(2) We really want to provide universal health care.*

*(3) We must not deploy more resources toward  
health care than our society can afford.*

*∴ We must ration some medical procedures.*

#### As two Separate Arguments

*(1) If A, then B or C.*

*(2) A.*

*(3) Not C.*

*∴ B.*

*(1) If A, then B or C.      A version of Modus Ponens*

*(2) A.*

*∴ B or C.*

*(1) Either B or C.*

*Disjunctive Argument*

*(2) Not C.*

*∴ B.*



## Discussion of Chapter 2 Exercise 2.4 #2

### Networks Don't Get Connection (Excerpt from column by Cal Thomas *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, May 14, 1992)

ABC Television broadcast a special "Men, Sex and Rape," . . . full of "pretension to virtue." . . . First Amendment absolutists have resisted every attempt to control the huge levels of effluent [from TV] that have turned our society into a toxic waste dump. . . . One does not have to be a social scientist to see a connection between increased incidents of rape, and

other acts of violence against women, and the way women are treated in the popular media. . . . If rape is a terrible crime, and it is, and if there is a connection between pornography and the cultural permission it gives those already predisposed to perform these acts on women, then the government has an obligation and duty to control its proliferation.

*(1) Rape is a terrible crime.*

*(2) If rape is a terrible crime, then the government has an obligation to control anything that promotes it.*

*(3) Pornography promotes rape.*

*∴ Government has an obligation to control pornography.*

## Fitting a Pattern—a more difficult task

(1) *Rape is a terrible crime.*

(2) *If rape is a terrible crime, then the government has an obligation to control anything that promotes it.*

(3) *Pornography promotes rape.*

*∴ Government has an obligation to control pornography.*

(1) *Rape is a terrible crime.*

(2) *If rape is a terrible crime, then anything that promotes it is something the government has an obligation to control*

(3) *Pornography promotes rape.*

*∴ Government has an obligation to control pornography.*

(1) *A.*

*A version of Modus Ponens*

(2) *If A, then All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_2$ 's.*

*∴ All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_2$ 's.*

(1) *All  $P_1$ 's are  $P_2$ 's.*

*Predicate Instantiation*

(2) *m is a  $P_1$ .*

*∴ m is a  $P_2$ .*

**Assume these are all  
Alternatives for A**

If I go outside

If I eat a lot of ice cream

If I sit by the window

**B**

then I'll get cold.

If A, then B

A \_\_\_\_\_

∴ B

**Modus Ponens**

If A, then B

B \_\_\_\_\_

∴ A

*Fallacy of Affirming  
the Consequent*

If A, then B

Not B \_\_\_\_\_

∴ Not A

**Modus Tollens**

If A, then B

Not A \_\_\_\_\_

∴ Not B

*Fallacy of Denying  
the Antecedent*

Goodman presents this main argument

*(1) If gender testing becomes widely accessible, then people must be able to resist using it for sex selection.*

*(2) We will not be able to resist using gender testing for sex selection.*

*∴ We should not allow gender testing to become widely accessible.*

**A version of modus Tollens**

*We have a choice. Unfortunately, we risk environmental catastrophe because we will not curb hydrocarbon emissions*

(1) Either [ **we will curb hydrocarbon emissions** ] or we risk environmental catastrophe.

(2) We will not curb hydrocarbon emissions.

∴ We risk environmental catastrophe.

*Even if we act immediately to tackle the problem of climate change, coastal areas will face devastation. A growing consensus of climate scientists believes that in the best case scenario, even if we take extreme action to protect the environment, there will be a 1 to 2 meter rise in sea level.*

(1) If we act immediately to tackle the problem of climate change,  
then there will be a 1 to 2 meter rise in sea level.

(2) If [ **there will be a 1 to 2 meter rise in sea level** ],  
then [ **coastal areas will face devastation** ].

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∴ If we act immediately to tackle the problem of climate change,  
then coastal areas will face devastation.

## Arguments from “Eschewing politics...”

(1) Church-based electioneering carries legal penalties.

(2) If [Church-based electioneering carries legal penalties],  
then [ Church-based electioneering must be avoided. ]

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∴ Church-based electioneering must be avoided.

**Pattern:**  
**Modus**  
**Ponens**

(1) All church-based electioneering carries legal penalties.

(2) [ All things that carry legal penalties must be avoided ]

∴ All church-based electioneering must be avoided.

**Pattern:**  
**Universal**  
**Syllogism**

## A second pair of arguments from editorial with more difficult patterns

- (1) If church leaders endorse political candidates,  
then congregations will be divided.
- (2) If congregations are divided, then religion will be harmed
- (3) [ **Religion should not be harmed.** ] \_\_\_\_\_
- ∴ Church leaders must not endorse political candidates.

**Pattern:**  
**“should”**  
**version of**  
**Modus**  
**Tollens—**  
**Twice**

- (1) All political endorsements by church leaders divide congregations.
- (2) Anything that divides congregations harms religion.
- (3) [ **Anything that harms religion must be avoided.** ] \_\_\_\_\_
- ∴ All political endorsements by church leaders must be avoided.

**Pattern:**  
**Two**  
**Universal**  
**Syllogisms**



## A Third Argument in the Editorial

- (1) If church leaders endorse political candidates, then the largest religious denomination will run the government and subject everyone to its dogma by force.
  - (2) If the largest religious denomination runs the government and subjects everyone to its dogma by force, then we will live in a country that is not free.
  - (3) We must *not* live in a country that is not free.
- ∴ [ **Church leads should not endorse political candidates** ]

**Pattern: “values” version of modus tollens**

## Segue to Ethics Session: the cultural diversity argument

(1) Different cultures have different moral norms .

**How do you get from here ↑ to there ↓ ?**

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**∴ What is right or wrong depends on the basic moral norms of the culture in which it is performed [*i.e. Cultural or Moral Relativism is true*]**

That's All Folks