

Assignments & Grading

Note that most written assignments will be graded anonymously. This is meant to help mitigate the effects of potential [implicit bias](#).

WEEKLY QUIZZES – 32 points

- There will be a total of 16 weekly “quizzes” throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth **2 points**, or 2% of your final grade.
- Each quiz will be administered through Blackboard outside class hours. The majority of them will contain multiple-choice questions designed to determine that students have understood the assigned readings for a given week. For some of them, students will receive a completion grade for performing some other task, such as addressing a critical thinking prompt, completing a survey, selecting a topic for their final paper, and so on.
- Students are permitted to take each quiz as many times as they'd like so long as they do so by the corresponding deadline.

FIND-A-FLAW ASSIGNMENT – 22 points

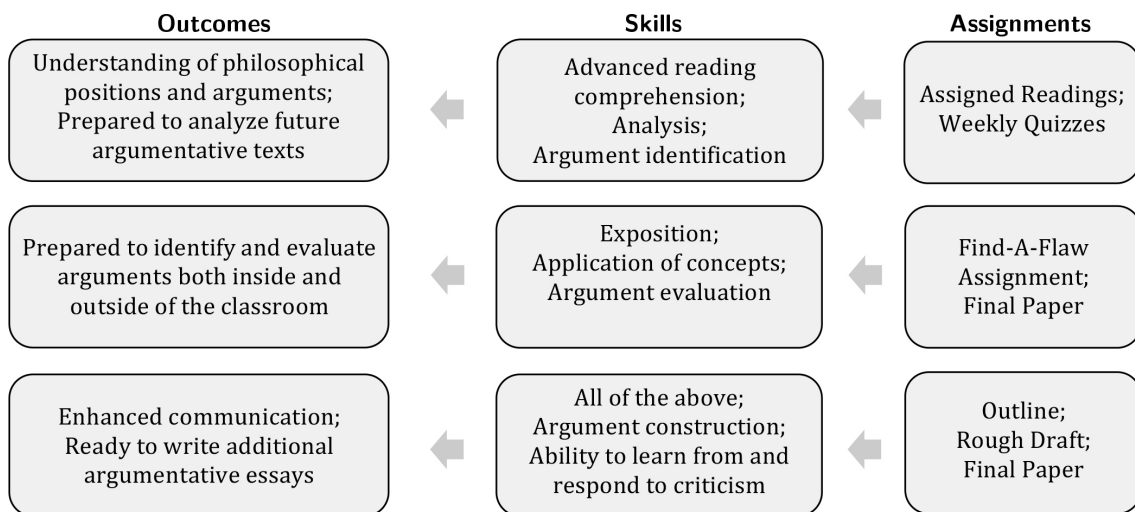
- As will become clear during the first two weeks of class, there are only two ways to rationally undermine an argument. One of them is to find some flaw in the reasoning. For this assignment, you will apply this skill to your everyday life by summarizing an argument for a position on a contemporary moral problem that you've encountered outside of class and explaining why the reasoning is flawed.
- This is meant to be a fun opportunity for you to apply the concepts and skills from this course outside of the classroom. I will provide more information on how to find and evaluate a target argument when I distribute the assignment prompt.
- Your written piece should be **700–1,000 words** in length (roughly 2.5–4 double-spaced pages). With prior special permission, alternative media (such as a short podcast episode) may be accepted in place of prose.
- The assignment will be worth a total of **22 points**, or 22% of your final grade. I will distribute a grading rubric with the assignment prompt. In order to ensure fast grading turnaround times, I will not provide feedback on Find-A-Flaw assignments unless a student contacts me in advance to request it.
- Students who receive a **passing but less than satisfactory grade** may revise their submission for the chance to receive a higher grade. To take advantage of this privilege, students must contact me within 24 hours of receiving their grade, schedule a meeting to discuss their assignment, and then revise and resubmit their assignment **within 48 hours** of our meeting.

FINAL PAPER – 46 points

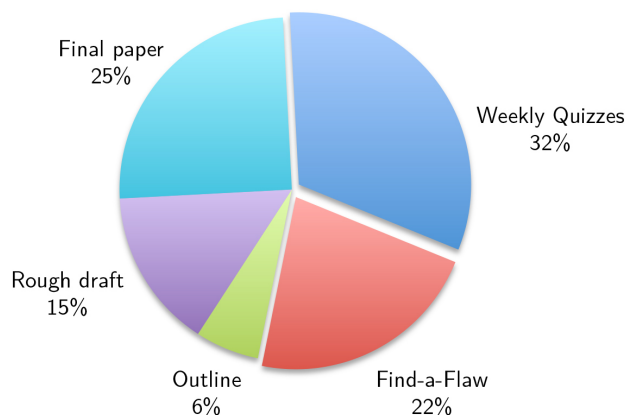
Instead of taking a final exam, you will write a **1,600–2,000 word** paper (roughly 6–8 double-spaced pages) in response to a pre-assigned prompt. The prompts (together with a grading rubric) will be administered through Blackboard and discussed in class no later than Week 5, and you will be required to choose a prompt by Week 10 for a [Weekly Quiz](#). The paper will then be completed in three stages:

1. You will write an outline, which will be graded for completion and worth a total of **6 points**, or 6% of your final grade. In order to ensure fast grading turnaround times, I will not provide feedback on outlines unless a student contacts me in advance to request it.
2. You will write and submit a rough draft for detailed feedback and up to **15 points**, or 15% of your final grade.
3. You will revise your paper in light of my feedback and submit it (together with a cover letter explaining your revisions) for final grading at the end of the semester. The final draft is worth **25 points**, or 25% of your final grade. I will not provide feedback on final drafts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES



GRADE DISTRIBUTION



GRADE SCALE

100.0–90.0	= A
89.9–80.0	= B
79.9–70.0	= C
69.9–60.0	= D
59.9–0.0	= F