

University of Lethbridge — Department of Philosophy

Logic 2500A

**Rhetoric and Reality: Critical Thinking  
in the Post-Fact Age**

Spring 2018

MW 3:00–4:15, L1168

**Instructor:** Kent Peacock

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**Course Web Site via Moodle**

“I love the poorly educated!”

— Donald J. Trump

Is global warming real, or a hoax by scientists trying to get more research grants? Did the Apollo astronauts land on the Moon, or a set in Disney Studios? Do vaccines cause autism, despite the repeated assurances of scientists that they do not? Is the Earth flat?

This is not a course on astronomy, and we will not try to convince you that the Earth is, in fact, a spheroid orbiting the Sun. We’re going to work through the following two texts:

Mark Battersby, *Is That a Fact? A Field Guide to Statistical and Scientific Information*. Second Edition. Broadview Press, 2016.

James Hoggan, *I’m Right and You’re an Idiot: The Toxic State of Public Discourse and How to Clean It Up*. New Society Publishers, 2016.

*Is That a Fact?* is a user-friendly but sound introduction to scientific method, designed to give you the tools to distinguish between click-bait and reliable science. Hoggan’s book is based on interviews with a range of thinkers from Latour through Chomsky to the Dalai Lama, all concerned with finding ways for people to get around their differences and bring human intelligence to bear on the huge problems of our time.

Logic 2500 counts as a Science course toward your Liberal Ed requirements.



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