

# Paper Assignment 2

## Phil 12: Logic and Decision Making

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Write a short paper (1-2 pages, double-spaced, typed) on the question assigned for your section. These are to be turned in at the beginning of class on Thursday, **29 November 2007**. Late submissions will be penalized by one point per day they are late. In order to be fully prepared for this assignment, you may have to read a bit ahead on the modules (particularly the section on testing causal claims experimentally). Present your answers entirely in your own words—do not quote material either from the website or the lecture powerpoints. There is no need to quote anyone else, explain everything in your own words. You may draw upon sources (books, journals, or the internet) for an example. If you do so, you must provide a reference to the source you used. Clarity, precision, and accuracy are all essential for a good paper.

### **A01: Monday, 8am**

It has been observed that students who take Phil 10, Introduction to Logic, tend to do better in college than other students. But is taking Phil 10 the cause of the higher GPAs? Design a study to test the claim. Discuss all the critical factors involved, including how possible confounds are controlled for and identify under what conditions you will be able to conclude that taking Phil 10 causes better college performance.

### **A02: Monday, 4pm**

Student Health reports that there has recently been a significant spike in common colds among the student population on campus. Curiously, other UC campuses have not been similarly affected. The director of Student Health would like to find out the cause for the spike at UCSD. One factor that she suspects is swimming in the campus Natatorium. She commissions you to design a study for testing her hypothesis. Discuss all of the critical factors involved, including how possible confounds are to be controlled for and identify under what conditions you will be able to conclude that swimming in the Natatorium is a cause of catching colds.

### **A04: Friday, 1pm**

Almost one hundred UCSD students have developed a set of symptoms that includes nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. There do not seem to be any new cases, but you are still concerned to identify the cause. One factor that many people suspect is the improper food storage in one of the campus restaurants. Propose a study for testing this hypothesis and explain why it would be the best procedure to follow. Also explain the limitations of your proposed study.