

### *Examples of fallacies of relevance*

PHIL 110

For each passage, indicate whether the fallacy being committed (if any) is one of the following:

appeal to force	tu quoque
appeal to pity	accident
appeal to the people (direct)	straw man
appeal to the people (indirect)	missing the point
ad hominem abusive	red herring
ad hominem circumstantial	

1. We have in hand over 400 testimonials from satisfied patients who have used magnet therapy to treat their pain from sprained ankles, arthritis, bursitis, gout, and tendonitis. With all of these people using magnet therapy, and more joining the ranks every day, magnets must be an effective therapy for pain management.

2. Mainstream doctors have complained that holistic medicine is unscientific, can't really be tested properly, and thus doesn't count as real medical practice at all. But such doctors have an agenda—they wouldn't want holistic medicine to become "mainstream" since that would cause them to lose patients. So their views on holistic medicine are false.

3. Feng shui is an ancient art and science of arranging the items in one's home to properly direct the flows of positive and negative energy. Adherents say the results can be quite striking, with clear improvements in one's well-being after getting one's home in the proper order. Hiring a feng shui master to advise you is extremely expensive and is really only available to the super-rich. There must really be something to the art of feng shui—it must really work.

4. If you arrange your bedroom with the foot of the bed pointed at the door, the bed is in "the death position". I see your bed is in the death position. You might want to move it—otherwise you might wake up dead one morning.

5. Poisoning people is immoral, and it obviously can make them extremely sick. But many drugs, such as those administered as part of chemotherapy treatments, are extremely poisonous. It's just unbelievable that chemotherapy is an accepted form of medical treatment.

6. Mainstream doctors claim that many treatments offered by practitioners of "alternative medicine" are unsafe and untested. Safety is indeed a serious concern in the field of medicine. With strains of bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics, there is a real danger of becoming sick just by going to the emergency room. You can also be exposed to exotic viruses just by going to the hospital. Emergency rooms are even dangerous places when it comes to crime—over a thousand people were robbed in American emergency rooms last year. Safety is a serious thing to worry about, for sure.

7. Many scientists think that astrology is mindless pseudoscience. Astrologers assert that celestial objects affect us personally, and evidently those critically-minded scientists must think that things in the sky don't affect us at all. But of course they do: The moon affects the tides, the sun warms the air when it rises each morning, and meteors strike the earth occasionally. So those scientists have it all wrong when it comes to their views on astrology.

8. Doctors are just rich know-it-alls who only want our money. So when they say that therapies such as magnet therapy, motion therapy, and therapeutic touch are all pseudoscientific, they're way off base.

9. Physicists have been working on identifying all of the different kinds of matter in the universe, and they're having a tough time doing it. Not only doing that, but they're also having a tough time *locating* all of the matter in the universe. You see, given the rate of the universe's expansion, there ought to be much more stuff in the universe, but we can't find it. Physicists posited something called "dark matter" and "dark energy", but even if such "stuff" exists, there isn't enough of it to account for the rate of expansion of the universe. It's looking more and more like there really are such things as spirits and souls after all.