

Office: 314 C Phone: (760)355-6285

E-mail: aaron.edwards@imperial.edu

CRN: 20373

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9:15-10:15 and Tue 11:45-1:15; Thu 11:45-12:15; Online Thu 12:15-1:15

Website: www.imperial.edu/aaron.edwards

Course Description and Introduction: *Critical Thinking* is a course created to help students develop their skills in reasoning, analysis and the use of logical argument. We will focus on skills for identifying claims, premises and conclusions and touch on topics such as truth, reasons, validity, soundness, and fallacies. We will also examine ways in which logic can improve essay and paper writing. All of these skills can be applied to other fields of study such as business, science, law, social science, ethics and the arts.

Textbooks: (M&P) Moore and Parker, *Critical Thinking* 9th edition (Required) Books are available at the IVC Bookstore.

Course Requirements: Final Grades will be determined by three exams, regular homework assignments, a short paper, participation in class and quizzes, as below:

Homework:5%	In-Class Exams: 30%	Final Exam: 20%	Writing Project: 10%	Attendance and Participation: 10%	Quizzes: 10%	Short papers 15%
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F. In some cases we will go over homework in class, but if time is running short you will be responsible for correcting your own work.

There will be four exams throughout the semester, three smaller exams and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly.

In addition to the homework and exams, there will be 4 pop quizzes . There will also be a short paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should attend class meetings on a regular basis. Also, you can participate by raising interesting questions and comments in class.

Plagiarism: We'll talk about plagiarism on the first day of class so that everyone will know what exactly it is. Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

Group work

For each group discussion assignment, I break the class up into groups of 5-7 students; each group will have their own private forum. The students need to read their groups specific assignment. Each discussion assignment is divided into two parts with two due dates. For part 1, you will respond to the questions in the assignment. For part 2, each student must respond to two of the posts within your forum that were posted in part one.

Disability Statement: Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's):

By the completion of this course the students should be able to distinguish the four types of arguments. Locate fallacious reasoning.

Assessment Tool: Final

Institutional Outcome: ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction, Syllabus, Plagiarism	Read M&P, ch1.
	What is Critical Thinking?	
Week 2	Two kinds of reasoning	Read M&P, ch2.
	Group Work ch. 2	
Week 3	Clear Thinking & Writing	Read M&P, ch3. pg. 69-86
	Group Work on definitions	
	Ch.3 (written assignment topic)	Read M&P, ch3. pg. 87-93
Week 4	Credibility	Read M&P, ch4
	Persuasion	Read M&P, ch5.
Week 5	Group Work ch. 5 (written assignment #1 due)	
	Fallacies	Read M&P, ch 6.
Week 6	More Fallacies	Read M&P, ch. 7.
	Group Work on Fallacies.	Written Assignment topic
Week 7	<i>Thank you for Smoking</i> Movie	
	Review for Midterm study guide	(written assignment #2 is due)
Week 8	Midterm October 9 th at 10:15 AM	
Week 9	Formal Logic (written assignment #3 topic)	Read M&P, ch9.
	Truth Tables	Read M&P, ch.9.
Week 10	Group Work Ch 9	(written assignment #3 is Due)
	Moral Reasoning	
Week 11	Moral Thoeries	
Week 12	Legal Reasoning	Ch. 9
	More Legal Reasoning	Read, M&P, ch9. 436-449
Week 13	Group Work on Moral Reasoning	
	Legal and Aesthetic (writing project)	Read, M&P, ch9. 456-467
Week 14	Work on Writing Project.	Writing Project
	Tips for writing a philosophical paper	
Week 15	Group Work on Legal Reasoning.	
	Review for Final	Writing Project is Due
Week 15	Final Exam 10:15-11:40	