

PHILOSOPHY 106: Spring 2010
Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking CRN 20372
Thursday 6:30 – 9:40 pm Room 810

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Required Texts -Brooke Noel Moore and Richard Parker. *Critical Thinking*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009.
-Electronic Materials: Access at ...

<http://sites.google.com/site/philosopherdavidburris/imperial-valley-courses-1/introduction-to-logic>

Course Description This course is an introduction to deductive and inductive logic. The attention is focused upon the relationship between logic and language fallacies, and the use of logic and critical thinking in everyday life.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's):

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

Assessment Tool: Final

Institutional Outcome: ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

Course Objectives:

- 1) Identify the distinguishing features of deductive and inductive arguments.
- 2) Recognize logical flaws in arguments.
- 3) Extract the essential content (premises, evidence, conclusions) contained within a body of information, determining what information is or is not relevant to the argument.
- 4) Place arguments in standard form.
- 5) Reason correctly from premises to conclusions.
- 6) Construct and defend original arguments.
- 7) Critique, analyze, and evaluate issues and arguments that are of a philosophical, cultural, ethical, or political nature.
- 8) Express themselves correctly and articulately in writing on important issues.

Course Requirements Student's final grade is the percentage they earn out of 100 possible points.

-Exams (60 pts): There will be three exams total in the class. Each will be worth 20 pts. The exams will generally consist of a multiple choice section and possibly a short essay question or two. Students must bring a scantron sheet (882 E) and a blue book (Small or Large). No retakes or make-ups are permitted unless special arrangements are made PRIOR to the exam with the instructor. Vacations and family events are not sufficient reasons to miss these exams.

-Formal Debate (30 pts): Students will work in groups and participate in a formal debate that will take place in class Thursday May 27th. Generally, the debate will center on an issue picked by the instructor, at which the students will put forth an argument(s) either in support of it or against it. Each group will take turns trying to persuade the audience that 1) their own position on the issue is true, using good arguments and evidence as support, 2) their opponent's position is untrue because of a lack of good supporting arguments and evidence, and 3) the objections raised against their own group's position by their opponents are unsound, invalid, or implausible. Prior to the day of the debate, students will have time in-class and out of class to research and formulate their arguments as a group. For the debate, a spokesman must be chosen to present to the class. This person will not be graded higher in virtue their presenting, someone just has to do it. The primary means of evaluation for this assignment will largely focus on your contribution to helping your group research and organize your presentation. This assignment will be largely peer evaluated, that means, those students who are in your group will be evaluating your contribution to the success of your group's presentation. The average scores you receive from your peers, in conjunction with the discretion and observations of the instructor will determine your grade for this assignment. The size of the group will depend upon the number students in enrolled in the class. Special instructions will be given about the specific topics for debate and the format at a later date.

-Discretionary Points (10 pts): The student must demonstrate preparedness for class sessions. This includes reading the chapter(s) assigned BEFORE the start of class, contributing to class discussions, and asking thoughtful questions. Genuine desire on the part of the student to improve throughout the semester will also be considered. This essential preparedness will be worth 5 pts. The other 5 pts. will be issued based upon the student's performance on assigned homework exercises

and in-class quizzes. Homework exercises will be assigned at the end of each class and can be found at the end of each chapter in the course reader. At the beginning of each class these exercises will be discussed. I will, at random times, collect them to make sure they are being done. Please do not hand in partially completed homework. Any homework assignment that is not fully completed will not be eligible for points. Quizzes based on the reading will also be given at random.

Another way to improve your all around grade in this area will be to bring into class various multimedia tools (e.g., music, you tube videos, movies, poems, etc.,) that serve to illustrate the points being made in class. I'm always looking for new ways to creatively present this material and your (the student's) assistance is greatly appreciated.

-Extra Credit: Extra credit assignments are available to those students wishing improve their grades a slight incremental amount. These assignments will not be able to make up large amounts of ground, so the student should not think they have a safety net of extra credit should they get behind in this course.

Assignment #1 First, type in the following web address to your internet search navigation bar:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcfwq3GNjOU>

What should come up is a formal debate between two philosophers named William Lane Craig and Austin Dacey. Second, watch the entire debate. Note: Do not be fooled by the time on this first video which says eight minutes. You must keep clicking on succeeding videos to watch the entire debate which lasts about an hour. There are 14 individual videos altogether. Third, write a 1-2 page paper telling me who you think won the debate and why? The maximum amount of extra credit you can get on this assignment is 3 pts. (3%). The amount of extra credit will be determined by how well and detailed you explain WHY you think that person won.

Assignment #2: This assignment is just like assignment #1 except that you will be watching a different debate between Dinesh D'souza and Christopher Hitchens on the merits of religion and atheism:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-NduvegITQ&feature=PlayList&p=8399092B6C337E55&index=0>

The maximum amount of extra credit you can get on this assignment is 3 pts. (3%). These are the only two extra credit assignments I will offer.

-Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A 80% - 89.9% = B 70% - 79.9% = C 60% - 69.9% = D <60% = F

NOTE: If the student has a discrepancy or issue about a grade, they must write up a written statement that includes: 1) Their name, course title, time, and the assignment in question, 2) In what way do they believe they have been graded unfairly or incorrectly, and 3) What do they expect the instructor to do to fix it. I will not discuss the graded work with the student until this statement has been written, been given to me, and I have had some time to investigate the problem. Do not try to confront me during or after class until I have looked into it. After my review, I will arrange a time to meet the student to discuss it.

Attendance Policy Given that this class only meets once a week, there is one unexcused absence allowed during the semester. Unexcused absences which exceed this number will result in a deduction to the student's grade at a rate of 5% per absence. After three absences (excused included), the student will be automatically dropped from the class. Note: Vacations and family events are not sufficient reasons to miss class. Additionally, if the student is not present for more than twenty minutes at any time during the class meeting, it will go down as an unexcused absence.

Classroom Conduct Most days, each class session will contain a lecture on the content of the assigned readings, some group work, a chance for questions, an introduction to the next topic, and maybe a quiz. Due to the fact each class session goes for three hours, even on test days we shall follow a similar format. In other words, students are not advised to leave after the test is over, as we will use the remaining time to cover more material.

While in this classroom, students will show respect for the instructor and their fellow classmates. Students must show up to class on time, or if they are late, come in the least disruptive way possible. Constant tardiness will go down as an unexcused absence. Students are expected to stay awake and alert throughout the class. Distracting other students by talking during lectures or presentations may result in the student being asked to leave the class. Please be sure that cell

phones are off. And do not text or play games. Negative cultural, ethnic, political, racial, sexist, or religious comments are strictly prohibited, and will result in the student being automatically dropped.

Due to the sensitive nature of a number of issues we will discuss in this class, it is imperative that if the student cannot participate without getting angry, rude, disruptive, hateful, or intolerant, that they simply do not participate. All issues must be discussed with an air of academic and scholarly open-mindedness and objectivity in order to foster a learning environment of mutual respect where students can ask honest questions and present their ideas and opinions without fear of being judged and ridiculed. After all, we are all essentially after the same thing, the truth. And the truth is rarely found in the person with the loudest voice. Part of what makes a good critical thinker is the ability to assess an issue, idea, or proposition without getting emotionally attached or outraged by it. The idea is evaluated on its own merits and not merely assumed to be true or false based on some prejudice we may already have.

Cheating: Cheating is strictly forbidden. By cheating, I mean any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes or tests. All personal belongings must be kept off your desk and tucked away in a backpack or knapsack. If you are talking during the exam, your eyes begin to wander to another student's exam, or you take out a cell phone, ipod, itouch, etc. during the test, I will automatically assume that you are cheating. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the exam and possibly be removed from the course.

Plagiarizing: Plagiarism is defined as stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own. However, if due credit is given or acknowledged, usually by using quotations, works cited pages, and bibliographies, then using the ideas of others to supplement your own is permitted. Any student caught plagiarizing on any homework assignment, quiz, paper, or exam will receive an automatic 0 on the assignment and faces possible removal from the course.

Student Services Students with special needs due to a learning or physical disability are encouraged to avail themselves of the resources in the Disabled Student Programs and Services office in the 2100 Bldg. (760-355-6312). If you think something might prevent you from doing well in this course, you should discuss this with the instructor so that proper arrangements may be made to accommodate your needs.

Tutoring is available to all IVC students on a walk-in basis in the Spencer Library Media Center. The center also provides study skills workshops which may prove to be invaluable to those just beginning their college experience.

Success My primary goal as an instructor is to help you, the student, succeed in this class. Throughout the semester, if there is anything that I can better do to help you succeed and flourish in this class, feel free to talk to me about it. An A for every student is a very reachable goal and I greatly desire to help each of you achieve it. Here are some tips to help you succeed:

-In the past, students who succeeded in this class typically are the ones who...

- 1) come to class regularly prepared to talk about the material
- 2) ask a lot questions
- 3) take good notes during the lecture
- 4) come to my office hours for extra help
- 5) look for examples in their everyday lives of the things we discuss in class
- 6) join a study group with classmates for the exams
- 7) do the assigned reading
- 8) get the help they know they need through student services or through myself
- 9) are able to think through an issue calmly and objectively instead of emotionally or through their personal prejudices.
- 10) are able to write at grade level

It will take some hard work, but the skills you will gain as a result of your efforts in this class will benefit you the rest of your lives.

Course Calendar

All reading assignments on this schedule are mandatory and must be done BEFORE each class session. There will be grace on the first day of class; however, from then on, students need to have completed the reading listed under the weekly topics on this course calendar. The second week's reading is light so that students have opportunity to easily catch up from week one. The student should not think that the contents of the readings not explicitly covered or emphasized in class will not be included on the exam. Exam dates may be flexible; however, the date of the debate is not. C.R.= Course Reader (Parker and Moore)

- 2/18 Syllabus; Introduction; The Basics of Critical Thinking
 - Critical Thinking Basics (C.R. 1-21)
- 2/25 The Basics of Critical Thinking Cont.; Two Kinds of Reasoning
 - Two Kinds of Reasoning (C.R. 41-55)
- 3/4 Categorical Logic
 - Deductive Arguments I: Categorical Logic (C.R. 254-285)
- 3/11 Categorical Logic Cont.
- 3/18 EXAM I; Truth Functional Logic
 - Deductive Arguments II: Truth-Functional Logic (C.R. 297-338)
- 3/25 Truth Functional Logic Cont.
- 4/1 Inductive Arguments
 - Three Kinds of Inductive Arguments (C.R. 346-373)
- 4/8 SPRING BREAK
- 4/15 Rhetoric
 - Persuasion Through Rhetoric: Common Devices and Techniques (C.R. 147-169)
- 4/22 EXAM 2; Informal Fallacies
 - More Rhetorical Devices: Psychological and Related Fallacies (C.R. 183-200)
- 4/29 Fallacies Cont.; Talk about Term Paper and Debate
 - More Fallacies (C.R. 211-229)
- 5/6 Debate Groups; Critical Thinking and Writing
 - Clear Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Clear Writing (C.R. 69-92)
- 5/13 Critical Thinking and Writing Cont.
 - Credibility (C.R. 105-134)
- 5/20 Practical Reasoning
 - Moral, Legal, and Aesthetic Reasoning (C.R. 436-468)
- 5/27 GROUP DEBATES
- 6/3 Flex Week
- 6/11 FINAL EXAM