
SYLLABUS

Phil 004 – Critical Thinking

Course Description

Have you ever been persuaded to hold an opinion, cast a vote, make a purchase, or make a life altering decision by the way someone talks rather than what was actually said? Have you ever made a mistake in judgment or done something that you later thought was foolish? Sometimes these mistakes can just lead to a harmless chuckle, but other times our lapses in judgment can lead us down painful roads.

This course introduces and examines the role of formal and informal methods of reasoning in several forms of discourse. We will focus on the cultivation of critical thinking skills and the ability to carefully analyze an argument. Students will learn how to make decisions and come to judgments based on *what* is said rather than *how* something is said.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze a variety of rhetorical and argumentative techniques
2. Analyze and assess a variety of rhetorical and argumentative texts
3. Develop original complex arguments
4. Apply these tools to real-world decision-making and philosophical analysis.

Instructor Information

Javy Galindo

Spring, 2015

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Office Hours: 9:30–10:00 AM T/TH in L13 or By Appointment

Course Website: <http://www.javygalindo.com/criticalthinking>

Course Expectations and Requirements

Attendance

- Students with perfect attendance (no absences, late arrivals, or early departure) will have 5% added to their final exam grade. Students with 1/3 to 1 full absence will have 5% added to their midterm exam grade.
- Students may miss a total of 4 class meetings without penalty during the term. There will be a quarter letter grade deduction assessed at the end of the term if the student misses 5 meetings, and a 6th absence will result in a half letter grade deduction. A 7th absence will result in a full letter deduction. An 8th absence may result in an automatic F and dismissal from the course. (Students are highly encouraged to speak to the instructor after his/her fifth absence. Do not assume that you will be automatically dropped.)
- It is a student's responsibility to obtain any information or assignments they may have missed while absent.

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her name has been recorded accurately on daily attendance sheets.
- Students are expected to come to class *on time* and stay for the duration of the class meeting. Any combination of three late arrivals or early departures will be considered equivalent to one absence on the attendance record.
- Students who arrive late or leave early must do so respectfully, causing minimal distraction to the rest of the class.

Classroom Policies

- Students who fail to properly complete and electronically "sign" the **Class Agreement** by Week 2 may be dropped from the course.
- All homework will be due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances for partial credit. No assignments will be accepted that is more than one week late, regardless of circumstances.
- Students are expected to be in class on time and may miss assignments and graded activities if they arrive late.
- Place all phones and pagers to vibrate. Using electronic devices such as laptops, mobile phones, and pagers is not permitted during class time without instructor approval. Students who use electronic devices without prior permission from the instructor may be asked to leave.
- Be respectful to others in the class and behave in a professional manner. Students who the instructor deems as being disrespectful to the class may be immediately dropped from the course.

Grading

- There are no make-up exams or make-up quizzes. The lowest of the four quiz scores will be dropped when calculating the student's final grade. All quizzes require a Scantron: either #2052 (Brown) or #882-E (Green).
- Many homework assignments are comprised of multiple choice questions to be answered online. However, students will also have a total of four essay assignments. These essay assignments will be graded on a pass/fail/zero system: 100% for passing assignments, 50% for failing assignments, and zero points if the assignment is not turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Class discussions will frequently feature small-group work. It is expected that students will participate actively in these groups in a respectful manner. Students not fully engaged in small-group work may be asked to leave and will not receive credit for the assignment.
- Academic honesty is imperative in all written work. Plagiarism, the use of unauthorized electronic devices during quizzes, and other violations will automatically result failing grade in the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Academics. Students who are unsure about standards for academic honesty should consult with me.

• Final Exam	30%
• Midterm	20%
• Top 3 Quizzes	20%
• Projects and Assignments	20%
• Participation	10%

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A+	96.5-100
A	92.5-96.4
A-	89.5-92.4
B+	86.5-89.4
B	82.5-86.4
B-	79.5-82.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	69.5-76.4
D+	66.5-69.4
D	62.5-66.4
D-	59.5-62.4
F	0-59.4

Required Textbook

Moore, B.N. and Parker, R. Critical Thinking (10th ed.) McGraw Hill, 2012.

Please ensure that you are using the **10th** edition of this text. If the bookstore is out of copies, I recommend searching online vendors such as www.amazon.com or www.half.com for reasonably priced used copies.

For a few of our assignments you will be asked to view videos found on youtube.com. It is your responsibility to find ways to view videos from this site. Please see me within the first week if you need assistance.

**The following course schedule is an approximate schedule and subject to change.*

Course Schedule	
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics - Syllabus, Course Introductions, Chapter 1 - Critical Thinking Basics 4/6 – No HW 4/7 – Review syllabus. Read pgs 1-10. Complete Class Agreement. 4/8 – Read pgs 17-22. 4/9 – Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics - Chapter 2: Two Kinds of Reasoning 4/13 – Prepare for Quiz #1; bring Scantron & #2 Pencil 4/14 – Read pgs 37-42 4/15 – Read pgs 43-49, 52-57 4/16 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics - Chapter 3: Clear Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Clear Writing 4/20 – HW Essay #1 (A Few Good Men). Read pgs 69-73 4/21 – Read pgs 74-81 4/22 – Read pgs 83-87 4/23 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics - Chapter 4: Credibility 4/27 - Prepare for Quiz #2; bring Scantron & #2 Pencil 4/28 - Read pgs 104-121 4/29 - Read pgs 122-135 4/30 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class

Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Chapter 5: Persuasion Through Rhetoric: Common Devices and Techniques • 5/4 - HW Essay #2 (Scammed!). Read pgs 146-155 • 5/5 - Read pgs 156-163 • 5/6 - Read pgs 164-170 • 5/7 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Chapter 6: More Rhetorical Devices - Psychological and Related Fallacies • 5/11 - Prepare for Midterm Exam • 5/12 - Read pgs 184-193 • 5/13 - Read pgs 194-202 • 5/14 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Chapter 7: More Fallacies • 5/18 - HW Essay #3 (Fallacies in TV Ads). Read pgs 210-214 • 5/19 - Read pgs 216-223 • 5/20 - Read pgs 223-230 • 5/21 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Chapter 8: Deductive Arguments I - Categorical Logic • 5/25 - No class • 5/26 - Prepare for Quiz #3; bring Scantron & #2 Pencil • 5/27 - Read pgs 253-263 • 5/28 - Read pgs 264-267 (<i>5/29 is last day to drop with a "W"</i>)
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Chapter 8 (continued), Chapter 10: Three Kinds of Inductive Arguments • 6/1 - Read pgs 271-284. Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned • 6/2 - Read pgs 349-357 • 6/3 - Read pgs 363-369 • 6/4 - Book Exercises and other HW as Assigned in Class
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Philosophical Writing: How to analyze and counter arguments (Bottled Water, Faith, Morality, and Free Will) • 6/8 - Prepare for Quiz #4; bring Scantron & #2 Pencil • 6/9 - Read handout as assigned. • 6/10 - Read handout as assigned. • 6/11 - Read handout as assigned.
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Class Overview, Final Exam Preparation • 6/15 - HW Essay #4 (Philosophical Analysis). In class film. • 6/16 - In class film screening • 6/17 - In class film screening • 6/18 - In class film screening
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics - Review & Final Exam • 6/22 - Final Exam Review. • 6/23 - Final Exam from 7:00am – 9:00am.