

PHIL 120:

Critical Thinking, Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11 AM- Noon or by appointment.

Philosophy Department:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introductory exploration of the elements of sound reasoning, the various deliberative processes aimed at making wise decisions about what to believe and what to do. Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

- ? Identify and evaluate informative claims.
- ? Develop and improve critical reading and thinking skills.
- ? Recognize the various forms of nonargumentative persuasive techniques (rhetoric).
- ? Recognize the most common fallacies and other forms of pseudoreasoning and understand why they should be avoided.
- ? Distinguish explanations from arguments and know how to evaluate the most common types of explanations.
- ? Say what constitutes an argument and how to distinguish deductive from inductive arguments.
- ? Identify and evaluate the most common forms of inductive arguments.
- ? Distinguish the various forms of causal arguments and causal fallacies.
- ? Appreciate the similarities and differences between reasoning in different field of inquiry such as ethics, the law, and art.

CHEATING POLICY:

Please read the departmental policy regarding cheating:

<http://users.ipfw.edu/caseldij/Cheating%20Policies.pdf>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each test, including the final, counts for 20% of your grade each, for a total of 80%.
(total possible = 400 points)

Various homework assignments will count for 15% of your grade. (total possible = 75 points) Homework assignments will be added throughout the semester.

Various discussion questions will count for 5% of your grade. Total possible = 25 points)

GRADING SCALE:

A+, A = 100-94%

A- = 93-90%

B+ = 89-87%

B = 86-84%

B- = 83-80%

C+ = 79-77%

C = 76-74%

C- = 73-70%

D+ = 69 -67%

D = 66 -64%

D- = 63-60%

F = 59 – 0%

COURSE MATERIALS:

Text: Critical Thinking, 9th edition, by Brooke Noel Moore and Richard Parker

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at www.ipfw.edu/ssd.

READINGS:

All assigned readings should be read **prior** to coming to class.

You may be tested on assigned material that is not covered in class.

ORDER OF ASSIGNED READINGS FOR LECTURES:

It is the *responsibility of the student* to know where we are in the course both in reference to lectures and testing. The course is concerned with the following subjects in the following order, and is grouped according to testing which will occur during the semester.

Module 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking (See PowerPoint)**Module 2: Critical Thinking Basics**

Chapter 1, Moore and Parker

Module 3: Two Kinds of ReasoningChapter 2, Moore and Parker **(Test 1)****Module 4: Clear Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Clear Writing**

Chapter 3, Moore and Parker

Module 5: FallaciesSee Hand out **(Test 2)****Module 6: Deductive Arguments**Categorical logic, chapter 8, Moore and Parker, PowerPoint, handouts **(Test 3)****Module 7: Inductive Reasoning**Chapter 10, Moore and Parker, Three Kinds of Inductive Arguments
Chapter 11, Moore and Parker, Causal Explanations **(Final Exam)****SYLABUS:**

Week	Reading
1. 8/24-8/28	Power Point, Introduction to Critical Thinking
2. 8/31- 9/4	Chapter 1, Moore and Parker
3. 9/7-9/11	Chapter 2, Moore and Parker

9/4 – first homework assignment due by midnight.**September 11, 2009 – Test 1 (You may take the test any time between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on the date. You will have 1hour and fifteen minutes to complete the test.)**

4. 9/14-9-18	Chapter 3, Moore and Parker
5. 9/21-9/25	Fallacy handout, through straw person fallacy on page 9
6. 9/28-10/2	Read the rest of the hand out
7. 10/5-10/9	Practice recognizing fallacies

October 9th, 2009 – Test 2 (You may take the test any time between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on the date. You will have 1hour and fifteen minutes to complete the test.)

8. 10/12-10/15	Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 255-265
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| 9. | 10/19-10/23 | Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 266-278 |
| 10. | 10/27-10/30 | Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 279-296 |
| 11. | 11/2-11/6 | Go over review exercises for test 3 |

November 9th, 2009 – Test 3 (You may take the test any time between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on the date. You will have 1hour and fifteen minutes to complete the test.)

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| 12. | 11/10-11/13 | Chapter 10, Moore and Parker, read pages 346-363. |
| 13. | 11/16 | Moral Reasoning hand out assignment due. |
| 14. | 11/17-11/20 | Chapter 10, Moore and Parker, read pages 363-384. |
| 15. | 11/23-12/4 | Chapter 11, Moore and Parker, read pages385-399. |
| 16. | 12/7-12/11 | Read the rest of chapter 11, Moore and Parker |

The final is on Monday, December 14th. (You may take the test any time between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on the date. You will have 1hour and fifteen minutes to complete the test.)