PHIL 120:
Critical Thinking, fall 2008
120-04: MWF 1:30 – 2:20 PM

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.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Name: Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht
Office: CM 28
Office Hours: Friday, 11:00 – 11:50 AM or by appointment.
Philosophy Department Phone: 481-6366
Fax: 481-6367
E-mail: caseldij@ipfw.edu (This is the best way to contact me.)

ATTENDANCE:
Regular attendance is expected. Absences are excused only for verifiable medical emergencies and the like. I will take attendance each class period, either orally or by passing around an attendance sheet. Every unexcused absence over four will cost a letter grade.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Please read the handout regarding the philosophy department’s policy on cheating.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Mid-term exams- 60%
Written assignment- 20 %
Final examination- 20 %

**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](http://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: Ethics of Critical Thinking**
- 1.1: “A Code of Intellectual Conduct” by T. Edward Damer (Power Point and Discussion in Class)
- 1.2: Enculturation lecture

**Module 2: Critical Thinking – an Overview**
- 2.1 “Thinking Critically: It Matters” Chapter 1, Moore and Parker

**Module 3: Credibility**
- 3.1: “Credibility” Chapter 3, Moore and Parker (Test 1)
**Module 4: Persuasion through Rhetoric**
4.1: “Persuasion through Rhetoric” Chapter 4, Moore and Parker

**Module 5: Fallacies**
5.1: “More Rhetorical Devices: Psychological and Related Fallacies” Chapter 5, Moore and Parker
5.2: “More Fallacies” Chapter 6, Moore and Parker (Test 2)

**Module 6: Deductive Arguments**
6.1: “The Anatomy and Varieties of Arguments” Chapter 7, Moore and Parker
6.2: “Deductive Arguments and Categorical Logic, Chapter 8, Moore and Parker (Test 3)

**Module 7: Inductive Reasoning**
7.1 “Inductive Arguments” Chapter 10, Moore and Parker
7.2 “Moral Reasoning” Please read pages 448 – 468 in Moore and Parker
7.3 Handouts regarding Moral Reasoning (Final Exam)

**TENTATIVE SYLLABUS.** Please note that this is a new syllabus so these dates may very well change. It will depend how quickly (or how slowly) we get through the material.

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<th>Reading</th>
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