PHIL 120: Critical Thinking, Spring 2009
WF 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Name: Jennifer Caseldine-Bracht
Office: CM 28
Office Hours: by appointment.
Philosophy Department:
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Voice mail: To leave messages for me, dial 481-5441, enter 19059, then push the # key.
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Website: http://users.ipfw.edu/caseldij

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.

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.
CHEATING POLICY:
Please read the departmental policy regarding cheating:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Each test, including the final, counts for 25% of your grade.

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 Reasoning  
Chapter 2, Moore and Parker (Test 1)

Module 4: Clear Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Clear Writing  
Chapter 3, Moore and Parker

Module 5: Fallacies  
See 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)

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1/12-1/16 Power Point, Introduction to Critical Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1/19-1/23 Chapter 1, Moore and Parker</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>1/26-1/30 Chapter 2, Moore and Parker</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>2/6-2/13 Chapter 3, Moore and Parker</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>2/16-2/20 Fallacy handout, through straw person fallacy on page 9</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>2/23-2/27 Read the rest of the hand out</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>3/2-3/6 Practice recognizing fallacies</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>3/9-3/13 spring break</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>3/16-3/20 Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 255-265</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>3/23-3/27 Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 266-278</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>3/30-4/3 Chapter 8, Moore and Parker, read pages 279-296</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>4/10-4/17 Chapter 10, Moore and Parker</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>4/22 Moral Reasoning hand out, 5 points extra credit</td>
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February 4th, 2009 – Test 1

March 6th, 2009 – Test 2

April 8th, 2009 – Test 3
14. 4/24 Chapter 11, Moore and Parker

15. 5/1 Make up test day

The final is on Monday, May 4th from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM in this room.