PHIL 120:

Critical Thinking, Summer 1, 2009

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

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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:
**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](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:
Introduction to Critical Thinking (See PowerPoint)
Chapter 1, Moore and Parker
Chapter 2, Moore and Parker (Test 1)

Module 2: Fallacies
Chapter 3, Moore and Parker
Fallacies, See hand out (Test 2)

Module 3: Deductive Arguments
Categorical logic, chapter 8, Moore and Parker, PowerPoint, handouts (Test 3)

Module 4: 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.

Module 1

Week 1- May 18th-May 21st

Reading
Introduction to Critical Thinking
Chapter 1, Moore and Park
Chapter 2, Moore and Parker

No class – May 25th – Memorial Day Holiday

May 26th – test 1

Module 2

Week 2 and first part of week 3- May 26th – June 1st

Reading
Chapter 3, Moore and Parker
Fallacy handout, through straw person fallacy on page 9
Read the rest of the hand out
Practice recognizing fallacies

June 2nd, 2009 – Test 2
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Module 3</strong></th>
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<td>Last part of week 3 and week 4 - June 2(^{nd}) – June 11(^{th})</td>
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**Reading**
Chapter 8, Moore and Parker

**June 15\(^{th}\), 2009 – Test 3**

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<th><strong>Module 4</strong></th>
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<td>Weeks 5 and 6 – June 15(^{th}) – June 23(^{rd})</td>
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**Reading**
Chapter 10, Moore and Parker

Moral Reasoning hand out, 5 points extra credit

Chapter 11, Moore and Parker

**Final exam – June 25\(^{th}\), 2009**