

Syllabus for Phil 3

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General Goal - From SRJC Course Catalog:

To gain an understanding of the relationship of language to logic, leading to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason deductively and inductively; and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Analyze arguments to identify and explain the claims and premises.
2. Evaluate arguments to determine whether claims are adequately supported.
3. Compose cogent written arguments.

Objectives:

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

1. Identify arguments.
2. Distinguish arguments from explanations, and from statements of unsupported opinion.
3. Describe the structure of support within an argument.
4. Paraphrase arguments.
5. Distinguish inductive from deductive reasoning.

6. Apply appropriate standards for the evaluation of both inductive and deductive arguments.
7. Apply appropriate standards of informal argument evaluation (recognition of informally fallacious arguments).
8. Design and compose arguments that meet appropriate standards of evaluation.

Additional Objectives for this course:

1. To understand the impediments to good reasoning.
2. To identify the major abuses of language.
3. To recognize the major deceptions of ads.
4. To understand how the mass media distorts news.

Textbook:

Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric, 12th edition
by Howard Kahane and Nancy Cavender
Wadsworth, Cengage Learning
ISBN-10: 1133942288 ISBN-13: 9781133942283

Grading and Tests:

Test 1 --- 15%

Test 2 --- 15%

Test 3 --- 15%

Test 4 --- 10%

Final Exam -- 20%

Homework Assignment 1 --- 14%

Homework Assignment 2 --- 7%

Message List Postings --- 4%

Test Procedures:

All tests and the Final Exam contain only multiple-choice questions. The tests contain 50 questions.

The Final Exam is comprehensive, covering the whole semester, with a special emphasis on Unit 5 and contains 85 questions.

Extra Credit:

2 points added to the final grade average for the successful completion of the Extra Credit Homework Assignment

2 points added to the final grade average if you write a letter to the editor and it is published in a major newspaper or magazine

2 points added to the final grade average for 5+ quality postings to the message list for EACH unit of the course

Chat Room:

There will be a chat session on the day before each test, usually at 6-7 pm in the Course Chat Room. The purpose of the chat sessions is to review sample test questions and to answer any questions that you may have. Attendance is optional. All chat session transcripts will be posted to the message list immediately after the chat.

If you are having difficulty with any of the course material, I am open to meeting you in the chat room on most days from 5-6pm. You should email me at least one day in advance.

Schedule: Critical Thinking Fall 2014

Course Overview

Day 1 Overview of Course Material

Day 1 Orientation: 1692 Emeritus

Unit 1 - Arguments Week 1-4

Introduction to Unit 1

Week 1 Arguments & Non-Arguments

Week 2-3 Deductive Validity & Cogency

Week 4 World Views and Background Beliefs

Week 4 Take Sample Test 1

Week 4 Test on Unit 1

Unit 2 - Fallacies Part 1 & 2 Week 5-7

Introduction to Unit 2

Week 5 Introduction to Fallacies

Week 5-6 Fallacies - Part 1

Week 6-7 Fallacies - Part 2

Week 7 Take Sample Test 2

Week 7 Test on Unit 2

Unit 3 - Fallacies Part 3 & Induction Week 8-11

Introduction to Unit 3

Week 8-9 Fallacies - Part 3

Week 9 Homework 1

Week 10-11 Inductive Arguments

Week 11 Take Sample Test 3

Week 11 Test on Unit 3

Unit 4 - Impediments & Language week 12-14

Introduction to Unit 4

Week 12 Impediments to Cogent Reasoning

Week 13-14 Uses and Abuses of Language

Week 14 Take Sample Test 4 Sample Test 4

Week 14 Test on Unit 4

Unit 5 - Ads & Mass Media Week 15-17

Introduction to Unit 5

Week 15-16 Product and Political Ads

Extra credit Overview of Homework 2 & Extra Credit

Week 16-17 Managing the News

Week 17 Review for Final Exam

Week 18 Final Exam