PHIL 3: Critical Thinking
Section 1482 & 1484, Fall 2017 Course Syllabus

AFTER YOU ARE ENROLLED IN THIS CLASS, ***CLICK ON YOUR CANVAS ACCOUNT (just under SRJC logo in the top left), click "NOTIFICATIONS," and turn on "ANNOUNCEMENT." You may select others if you choose***

Textbooks

1. *Critical Thinking: A Student's Introduction*, by Gregory Bassham *et al.* **Fifth or Fourth Edition**. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013 (5th ed.), 2011 (4th ed.) -- If you want to use a copy from the **reserve** desk in the library, bring a valid SRJC student ID card. Call Number B809.2 .C745 2013 or B809.2 .C745 2011.
2. *UnSpun*, by Jackson and Jamieson. New York: Random House, 2007. **Reserve**: BF637.D42 J33 2007
3. *Science and Religion* by Thomas Dixon. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. **Reserve**: BL240.3 .D57 2008

You can locate and order textbooks online via the SRJC Bookstore or online elsewhere. Older editions can be quite cheap online at Ebay, Amazon, etc.
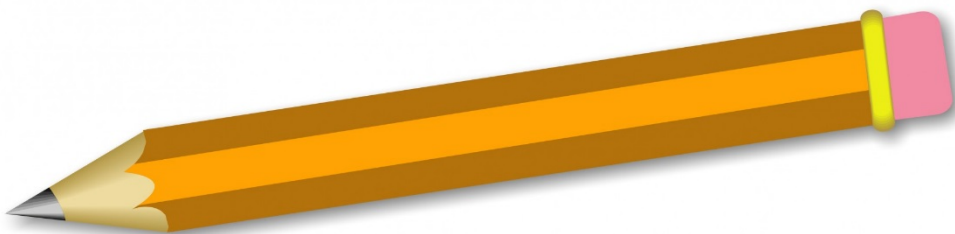

Course Description

This course teaches practical reasoning, argumentation and the analysis of language as useful tools for making reasonable decisions about what to do and believe.

This is an introductory course in critical thinking and critical reading skills. In this course, you will learn how to identify, construct, analyze, and evaluate ARGUMENTS. These skills will increase your comprehension of material you read in other courses and material from the media. These skills will also make your writing clearer and more persuasive. We will cover the different kinds of argument and various methods for evaluating arguments. We will also work on critically reading argumentative ("persuasive") essays and writing short argumentative passages. You will develop your ability to distinguish good arguments from bad arguments and, your ability to reason and write well. We will study fallacies, language, inductive reasoning, deductive reasoning, and arguments involving probability and statistics. We will also give special attention to advertising, the news media, political rhetoric, fake news, and science vs. pseudo-science.

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.

Class Meetings

Tuesday, August 22 - Thursday, December 14.

Section 1484, 12:00-1:20, Emeritus 1518 (click for map)

Section 1482, 1:30-2:50, Emeritus 1520 (click for map)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 21, 2017

Section 1484 (**12:00 class**) - **10:00 AM - 12:45 PM**

Section 1482 (**1:30 class**) - **1:00 PM - 3:45 PM**

FINAL EXAM WEEK SPECIAL SCHEDULE, DEC 16-22. no regular scheduled class meetings.

Instructor Contact

Dr. Mulder, Electronic communication through Canvas is preferred, using the "Messages" or "Inbox" icon in the left or bottom margin.

Email: dmulder@santarosa.edu

Office Hours: TTh 11:10-12:00, Emeritus 1513 (*let me know* if you're coming, so I'm not off running errands)

I respond to weekday emails within 24 hours.

Course Web Site

Students will use the Canvas course web site for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, viewing classmates' work, sharing resources, and viewing grades.

Course Requirements

Class Participation (worth 50 points, **5% of course grade**)

Proper classroom conduct and respectfulness, and regular attendance and participation in class are required. See Standards of Conduct and Attendance below.

Class Presentation (worth 50 pts. **5%**)

You may present a brief summary and explanation of an article, from a list I will provide, on topics related to our course. Alternately, you may find and present to the class one example of a "critical thinking lapse" or a "critical thinking success" from your own experience or someone you know. I will give you several examples in class before any students have to give a presentation. You'll be graded about 2/3 on the content and about 1/3 on the quality/clarity of your presentation style..

Assignments

Regular *reading assignments* from the textbooks and my own online materials in Canvas must be completed before the class meeting for which they are assigned.

The first online (Canvas) homework assignment will be a short paper, **worth 50 points**

There will be SEVEN (7) **graded homework assignments** (**worth 80 pts. 8% each**) online in Canvas. LOWEST GRADE DROPS. All homework will be CUMULATIVE, but emphasizing the most recent topics.

All homework must be completed and turned in online in Canvas. <mark>If it's not in your Canvas account, it doesn't count</mark>.

Two submissions allowed; grade equals **average** of two scores. They will consist of short answer, fill-in the blank, multiple-choice, true-false, and matching. The material comes from the textbook, class lectures and supplemental materials (videos).

Graded homework in Canvas opens after Wednesday's class meeting and is due before the next Monday's class meeting, giving you 116 HOURS to get it done. **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED.**

Online Practice (**0% of course grade**)

There will be several online exercise sets in Canvas throughout the semester labeled "Practice." Anything labeled "practice" is for **PRACTICE ONLY AND WILL NOT AFFECT YOUR GRADE**.

Exams

There will be *two midterms (worth 100 points each) and one final exam (worth 150 points, 15% of your grade) -- ALL COMPREHENSIVE, OPEN BOOKS, OPEN NOTES, One submission only, IN CLASS.* The material comes from the textbook, class lectures and supplemental materials.

Late Policy

All assignments are due at the designated time on the due date. Assignments will be open in Canvas for **116 HOURS**, so **no late work is accepted**.

Grading Policy

Click the "Grades" link in Canvas to keep track of your grades.

Weighting:
Class Participation: 50 points, 5% of course grade
Class Presentation: 50 points, 5% of course grade

Written assignment: 50 points, 5%

6 Graded Homeworks: 80 points, 8%, each

Two midterms: 100 point, 10%, each
Final Exam: 170 points, 17% of course grade

1000 points total

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 90-100%
B: 79-90%
C: 67-79%
D: 55-67%

If taking Pass/No Pass you need at least a 67% overall average and must complete the midterm exams and the final exam to pass the class.

Required Software

Chrome (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. is the recommended browser for Canvas
Run this computer readiness test (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. to check your browser for plugins and versions.

Important Dates

Dropping the Class

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact the instructor to avoid being dropped from the class.

Attendance

For face-to-face courses, students who fail to attend the first class meeting may be dropped by the instructor. For classes that meet online, students who fail to log on and initiate participation by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the first day of the class may be dropped by the instructor.

Instructors are required to drop all No-Show students immediately following the second class meeting. A No-Show is an enrolled student who has not attended any class meeting of the course. For classes that meet online, a No-Show is an enrolled student who has not logged on and initiated active participation by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time of the second day of the class.

Pass-NoPass (P/NP)

[You may take this class P/NP. You must decide before the deadline, and add the option online with TLC or file the P/NP form with Admissions and Records. With a grade of C or better, you will get P.

You must file for the P/NP option by [**date**]. Once you decide to go for P/NP, you cannot change back to a letter grade. If you are taking this course as part of a certificate program, you can probably still take the class P/NP. Check with a counselor to be sure.]

Instructor Announcements and Q&A Forum

The instructor will post announcements on the Announcements page in Canvas throughout the semester. Canvas notifies students according to their preferred Notification Preferences. **SET YOUR NOTIFICATION PREFERENCES TO INCLUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Standards of Conduct

Students who register in SRJC classes are required to abide by the SRJC Student Conduct Standards. Violation of the Standards is basis for referral to the Vice President of Student Services or dismissal from class or from the College. See the [Student Code of Conduct page.](#)

Collaborating on or copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. Students are encouraged to share information and ideas, but not their work. See these links on Plagiarism:

[SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](#)
[SRJC's statement on Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](#)

Special Needs

Every effort is made to conform to accessibility standards for all instructor-created materials. Students should contact their instructor as soon as possible if they find that they cannot access any course materials. Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278).