

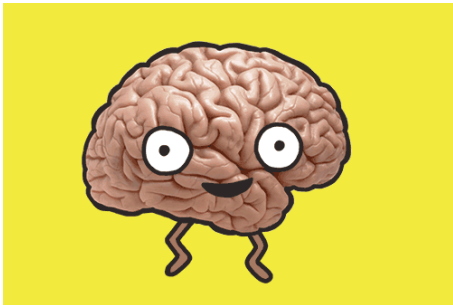
Phil3: Critical Thinking

*******Sample**

Syllabus*****

Phil3: Critical Thinking Syllabus

Sections: 5469, 4756, 5016

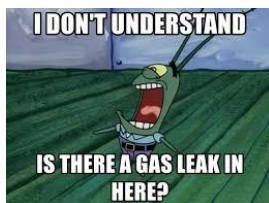


Class Runs: 1/18 - 5/19

Class time: There are no mandatory class meetings for this course - Homework sessions are optional and offered in addition to required office hours.

Cast of Villains & Their Hide-Outs

INSTRUCTOR



Sarah Whylly - Evil Genius and Master Alchemist

Phone: 707.307.3034 (text first please, I'm an Xennial and phone conversations are an attack on my personhood)

Email: swhyly@santarosa.edu (<mailto:swhyly@santarosa.edu>)

(<mailto:swhyly@santarosa.edu>)

Sarah's Office Hours: Mondays 11:45 am-12:45 pm, Tuesdays 2-3 pm. We can meet either in Zoom or Discord. This is where you can ask questions about the class and the work in general.

Homework Help Hours - Optional: Attendance is not required: Wednesdays 12-2 pm either in Zoom or Discord. This is time where you can receive help with the homework assignments.

TA



Bones - Snarky Henchman and Lab Assistant (test subject)

Email: cbones@bearcubs.santarosa.edu (<mailto:cbones@bearcubs.santarosa.edu>)

Discord: BONES#2775

Bones' Office Hours: TBD

*Important note, I (Sarah) and Bones are 'offline' on weekends and do not respond to text messages or emails from about 5 pm on Fridays until Monday. This includes holidays and days that we are ill.

General:

Discord Channel: See Announcements for updated invitation links (Discord Invites are only valid for 7 days at a time so they must be used within 7 days of them being offered. Once you have joined the class Discord channel you will not have to sign up again. If you miss out on signing up for Discord when the class starts but you want to do so later, email me and I will send out an updated link.). This is a place for study help, socialization, and memeing.

DESCRIPTION


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

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

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

Required Class Materials:

- [James Madison Critical Thinking Course](https://www.criticalthinking.com/james-madison-critical-thinking-course-student-book.html)  (<https://www.criticalthinking.com/james-madison-critical-thinking-course-student-book.html>)- paper book \$28.00 (Regular price is \$39.99. Use Code BBUGR30 at checkout to receive 30% off + free shipping for a total of 28.00 + any taxes.)

OR

- [James Madison Critical Thinking Course](https://www.criticalthinking.com/james-madison-critical-thinking-course-student-ebook.html) ↗ (<https://www.criticalthinking.com/james-madison-critical-thinking-course-student-ebook.html>)- ebook \$28.00 (Regular price is \$39.99. Use Code BBUGR30 at checkout to receive 30% off + free shipping for a total of 28.00 + any taxes.)

Required Free Textbook:

- [Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/457) ↗ (<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/457>)- Price is free; Author: Matthew Van Cleave, Lansing Community College

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GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

The student will, by doing the assigned work for the course, accumulate points which will determine the final grade.

As this is a 3 unit, UC transferrable course, the student is expected to do 6 hours of homework every week (about 2 hours outside class for every one hour inside class is the legal definition of a unit in a lecture class)

There will be 5 ways I assess learning in the course. They are as follows:

Exercises - Homework - This is work done at home grinding to get good. Translation: practice so you will know what you are doing. There may be additional points to be earned for explaining your answers, depending on the assignment. If you are struggling with a particular exercise, when I grade it, I may assign a review exercise which will be treated as extra credit. Exercises have varying numbers of problems, **+1 XP per problem completed.**

Quizzes - You will take online quizzes in this class via Canvas. **10 - 20 XP per quiz.**

Roleplay Activities - There will be fantasy role-playing in this class to solve mysteries and other Scooby-Doo type shit. It will be fun. It is a way to earn extra points for being a human with functioning imagination and critical thinking skills. This is a learning activity that is meant to reward participation and engagement of the activity. Our TA will be explaining this and he is primarily responsible for this aspect of the course. This is typically conducted via the discussion board. **+10-25 XP** per assignment

Tests - You will take online tests in this class via Canvas. **25-50 XP per test.**

Extra Credit - Some of these help you gain further practice in particular units if you need it. These are called Review Exercises. Others may be online, event-based. These are at my discretion. **+? XP per assignment**

***Important Note About Grades!:** The Canvas gradebook has a default setting of showing students their grades and treating all ungraded work as having no effect upon their grade in the course. This is a huge problem because it means that if you are missing work and I have not entered a 0 grade for that missed work, it will appear as though this does not effect your final grade. This is inaccurate. In order to turn this off and force the gradebook to treat all ungraded work as though it has earned a 0 grade (which is going to be more accurate although you must still sometimes be patient while I get caught up on grading), students must individually access the gradebook here in our Canvas class and uncheck the box that has the description, "Calculate based only on graded assignments."

Course Structure

This course uses modules as the organizational structure that students use to navigate the material. All assignments, supplemental course materials, and unit information should be accessed via the Modules link in the left-hand navigation in this course. Students **should not** rely upon the course calendar or the checklist provided in Canvas to access assignments and find out when assignments are due as these features are often inaccurate. Instead, please access the Modules area and check for unit overview pages, assignments, and due dates within the module for each unit. If you not familiar with using the Modules area, please access it using the Modules link in the left-hand navigation of the course and click on the link, '[Organization of Modules & Weeks - Required Reading \(https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/63836/modules/items/2470911\)](https://canvas.santarosa.edu/courses/63836/modules/items/2470911)' page in the top, first module of the course called, 'Course Overview & Resources'. This page will explain how to navigate the course using the Modules structure.

Attendance

In an online class attendance means actively engaging class materials and participating in all class activities.

If for any reason you cannot fulfill participation requirements in a week, please let me know in advance (or as soon after as possible in case of emergency). Any absence without notifying me is unexcused. More than three unexcused absences may result in dismissal from class. After any absence, you are responsible for getting class handouts from the class Web page and notes from a classmate.

INSTRUCTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The instructor will post announcements on the "Instructor Announcements" page in Canvas throughout the semester. Canvas notifies students according to their preferred Notification Preferences. Make sure these are set up and if you don't know how ask for help.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM & INTEGRITY

Teaching philosophy is an enterprise fraught with danger. I may use examples or discuss views that are flawed from the point of view of critical thinking. This does not necessarily mean the content of the idea is bad, although sometimes it is. It does mean that the reasoning used to get from one idea to the next was flawed in a way that leaves it vulnerable to critique. In general, we operate in this class as though no idea is above potential examination and critique. This is the only way to be intellectually honest and fair. Please keep in mind that just because we believe something strongly that our belief makes it true or if lots of people believe it we should accept it without examination. We should prepare to learn and examine ideas with the following working principles so we can all get the most out of our class:

1. **Academic Freedom.** No opinion is taboo. No one in my class will ever be silenced on the basis of the content of an opinion they express. Grades will never be based on the content of one's opinion. Academic freedom is a core value; education (as opposed to indoctrination) cannot really happen without it. This applies equally to instructor and student. That does not mean that opinions will not be subject to criticism.

Additionally, it does not mean that you should expect an opinion to be treated as a well-supported argument or as truth. They will not be. You should be prepared to defend your ideas with reason and evidence.

1. **Respect for Diversity of Perspective.** While one may express any opinion in terms of its content; that freedom does not absolutely apply to the WAY something is said nor does it imply that you should expect to be free from the consequences of expressing an opinion. I will not protect anyone from the consequences of espousing an offensive opinion. Indeed, one cannot simultaneously protect freedom of speech and freedom from offence. However, I will insist that opinions are expressed with respect for persons. You may argue against someone's beliefs in class, but you may not ridicule them or put them down as a person or judge them based on their membership in a particular group or classification, real or imagined.
1. **Academic rigor.** The basis of the class is that we engage in the critical thinking we are learning. This is a class that will challenge you to apply what you are learning. Because of the analytical nature of the class, cherished beliefs might feel threatened regardless of the respectful intentions of the speaker. While no one will be silenced, or graded down because they express a particular opinion, everyone will be held accountable to give real evidence and valid arguments for their opinions. By argument I mean a series of reasons given to support a particular conclusion (belief). An argument is invalid if the reasons don't actually support the conclusion. I'll say more about this in class. By critical I mean the position that a claim, a belief, to be worthy of being accepted, must be made of good reasons and is subject to be judged as true/false, better/worse on the basis of the quality of the reasons given.
2. **Academic Integrity for Instructors.** It is my responsibility to engage the practices of critical thinking information fairly and objective. The student is urged to keep in mind from the get-go that critical thinking is not easy but that the instructor holds themselves to very high standards for the quality of what I am teaching you to do.
3. **Academic Integrity for Students.** It is your responsibility to do your own homework, writing, and quizzes. All work for the course should be your own intellectual effort. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Copying another student's work or committing plagiarism will result in automatic zero for the assignment (first offense). Repeat offenders are subject to automatic F for the course or even expulsion.

Collaborating on or copying of tests or homework in whole or in part, without explicit permission from the instructor, 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:

[MLA Center on Plagiarism](https://style.mla.org/plagiarism-and-academic-dishonesty/?gclid=CjwKCAjwkoz7BRBPEiwAeKw3q5yymIDHdj1ZC7W9nE6VPNpW0ILw1EZL_ndTaWBgQxKyDNd_P3MhRoCBjsQAvD_BwE)  (https://style.mla.org/plagiarism-and-academic-dishonesty/?gclid=CjwKCAjwkoz7BRBPEiwAeKw3q5yymIDHdj1ZC7W9nE6VPNpW0ILw1EZL_ndTaWBgQxKyDNd_P3MhRoCBjsQAvD_BwE)

[SRJC's statement on Academic Integrity](https://rightsresponsibilities.santarosa.edu/academic-integrity) (<https://rightsresponsibilities.santarosa.edu/academic-integrity>)

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resources Department (SDRD). Please bring verification to class from the SDRD indicating your need and approval for academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

Please speak with me if you have any questions.

You can visit the JC's [Student Disabilities Resources Department \(https://drd.santarosa.edu/\)](https://drd.santarosa.edu/) website for more information.

Dropping the Class

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is [your responsibility to officially drop it \(https://admissions.santarosa.edu/frequently-asked-questions-and-policies\)](https://admissions.santarosa.edu/frequently-asked-questions-and-policies). 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.

If you feel you must quit the class, please talk with me first. Together we may find a way for you to complete the course successfully. If you quit without officially dropping, you are still graded on all the remaining work, usually resulting in an “F” grade.