

SYLLABUS: PHILOSOPHY 10 - CRITICAL THINKING – FALL 2008

Instructor: Keith A. Law

Office: IAC #260

Hours: M/W 6 – 7:00pm & Tu./Th. 11:00-12:30pm

Phone: 386 – 6689

“ If it is peace of mind and comfort you want then believe; however, if you are devoted to truth then inquire”
Friedrich Nietzsche

Purpose: Critical Thinking is a practical course in clear thinking and sound reasoning. The focus of the course is on recognizing and avoiding commonly made mistakes in reasoning, and on constructing cogent arguments. Be advised: much of the content of this course is adult in nature, and academic freedom is a necessary condition for our pursuit of knowledge; therefore; you may be presented with material and/or views concerning sex, gender, race, etc that some will experience as insulting or hostile.

Expected Student Outcomes: By the end of the course students will be able to: demonstrate the basic skills necessary for sound and logical reasoning; analyze the intricacies of language, meaning, and definition; analyze and critique informal fallacies; apply critical thinking techniques to areas such as advertising and the news media; distinguish between academic and non-academic literary sources; construct cogent arguments and essays.

Materials:

1. TEXT: Manuscript
2. NOTEBOOK: You will take copious notes in order to succeed in this course.
3. COMPOSITION BOOK (Journal): composition book will be used for all non-formal assignments. They will be graded on a regular basis.

Course Requirements and Method of Evaluation:

1.	Participation/attendance.....	100
2.	Journal	100
3.	Tests (2 x 100)	200
4.	Writing assignments (2 x 100)	200
5.	Term Argument Paper	200
6.	Final Exam	200
* + 900 = A, + 800 = B, + 600 = C, + 500 = D, - 500 = F		

Extra Credit: Five extra-credit assignments will add 50 pts.; thus, this can bring a borderline grade of C+ or better up to the higher grade. You must do five assignments to get any points, and extra-credit will not raise a grade that is less than a C.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating (copying answers or using pre-written answers on tests) and plagiarism (the use of another’s writing or ideas as one’s own) will result in a failing grade for that graded work.

Course Schedule: may be revised if needed

WEEK

TOPIC

1. Introduction & Writing assessment
Reading: Preface + Video: “Still Killing us Softly”
2. Chapter #1: Introduction to Critical Thinking
3. Chapter #1: Cont.
Reading: Ch. 1
4. Chapter #2: Introduction to arguments and logic
Reading: Ch. 2
5. Chapter #2: Cont. + Video: “The Public Mind”

TEST #1 – Covers Preface, Chapters 1, 2 & Videos

6. Chapter #3: Defining the issue: Censorship of Hate Speech on College Campuses
Reading: Ch. 3
7. Chapter #4: The Analysis of Arguments - Part One: Compositional analysis
Reading: Ch. 4
8. Chapter #5: Logical Analysis of Arguments.
Reading: Ch. #5
9. Chapter #5: Cont.
Reading Ch. 5
10. Chapter #5: Cont.

TEST #2 – Covers Chapters 3, 4 & 5

Begin Analysis of argument for term argument paper

11. 1. Logical outline of argument: side one
2. Chapter 6: Fallacies
12. 1. Logical outline of argument: side two
2. Ch. 6 - Cont.
13. 1. Logical outline of tentative position for or against
2. Debate
3. Ch. 6
14. 1. Logical outlines of two other sources
2. Ch. 6
15. Rough draft of paper for review
2. Ch. 7
16. Term argument paper due
2. Ch. 7
17. Term argument paper returned for rewrite
2. Ch. 7
18. Final Exam – Comprehensive

Unless otherwise mentioned, all assignments are to be typed, printed in 12 point font, double spaced, and, if more than one page, stapled. 10 points are subtracted from late assignments; 20 points are subtracted if the absence is unexcused.