

## Syllabus

### Philosophy 2 - Critical Thinking and Writing

Reedley College - Fall 1998

Instructor: David Crabtree

Phone: 855-8787 - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fax: 855-6241 - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Meets: Tuesday evening 6 to 8:50 p.m. (Sanger)

Thursday evening 6 to 8:50 p.m. (Reedley)

Drop Deadline Date: Oct. 17 / 6

Final Exam: See course schedule for exact time

Prerequisite: Completion of English 1A with a C or better.

#### Textbooks & Required Materials:

Bradbury, Nancy M. and Quinn, Arthur. *Audiences and Intentions*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon. 1997.

Corbet, Edward. *The Elements of Reasoning*. New York: Allyn & Bacon. 1991.

Additionally, you should have an MLA style guide. **All work completed outside of class will be typed; essays must follow MLA guidelines for citation style.**

#### Course Objective:

This is a course designed to help you see exactly how people attempt, sometimes legitimately, sometimes not, to persuade people who disagree with them. It is a course about becoming careful: more careful about your reasons for accepting or rejecting another's argument when he or she tries to persuade you, and more careful about the reasons you give when you try to persuade others.

This course presupposes that you have completed the prerequisite KRCC English 1A course or its equivalent. This course is not designed to teach the fundamentals of writing (punctuation, grammar, or sentence and expository paragraph construction). You are expected to be already able to write a basic three to five paragraph expository paper. As 60% of the course grade will come from several essays, it is essential that you realize at the outset just where you stand *vis-à-vis* the writing skills presupposed by the course.

To this end an in-class writing assessment (which must be taken and will be included in your file, but will not figure into your final grade) will be given during the second week of class and returned to you by the third week. The purpose of this assessment is to see how you stack up against the prerequisite for the course. You will be asked to consult with me if there are any concerns to be addressed. You are always free to consult with me about any issue related to the course. If you have taken and passed the English 1A or its equivalent with a "C" or better and can document having done so (and there is space available), you will be admitted to the class regardless of how you do on the assessment. Everyone must, nevertheless, take the assessment.

Further, this course meets the critical thinking transfer requirements of UC and CSU campuses. The demanding nature of this course is not the result of my whim. Course rigor is determined in part by the requirements of the four year schools; the writing component of this course has been reviewed and approved by the UC and CSU curriculum bodies. Anything less than the described work load would not fulfill the transfer requirement.

#### Attendance:

The study and practice of philosophy requires that one engage in conversation. Since I must evaluate your work, I must be present, and able to participate, during some of your conversations. You, too, are expected to attend and participate in all classes. I understand that emergencies arise,

and will tolerate the equivalent of two weeks absence without your grade being impacted. (Your education is being significantly subsidized by California taxpayers who would like to get their money's worth, and the college gets reimbursed for every hour you are in class; that is why I am required to keep attendance records.) Tardiness, while less objectionable, is nonetheless impolite and shows, if frequent, the basic "disrespect for an audience" that is a cardinal fault in a critical thinking class. More than two weeks absence, excessive tardiness, or a combination is grounds for a W or F grade. Your grade will be impacted by your **vocal participation** which is dependent upon your regular attendance.

### Rhetoric Journal

The purpose of the journal is to keep you engaged in the activity of rhetorical analysis of everyday media on a regular basis. Each week you are to find piece in a magazine or newspaper. You are to copy or cut out the piece and paste it in your journal. Each piece should be briefly analyzed for audience, intention, and argument. By the end of the semester, your journal should have a minimum of 15 pieces. At least three of the pieces will be advertisements; three will be political cartoons, three will be op-ed pieces (minimum 500 words each); the rest can be any of the preceding or another type piece of your choosing. Your journal will be collected three times during the semester. It will be graded on completeness, appropriateness of the selections made, plausibility and clarity of your analysis, any insight you demonstrate in your analysis and neatness/organization.

### Essays:

There will be six analysis essays (200-300 words each) assigned during the semester. These essays will focus on application of the skills taught during the course. You will use assigned readings as the basis of your analysis.

There will be three synthesis essays (2000 - 2500 words each) assigned during the semester. Essays will be selected from a variety of issues covered by the course lectures and readings. You will substantially rewrite these essays following critique. The original, marked-up version, must be turned in with the rewritten version.

### Late Work & Extra Credit

As many as **three** of your essays will be accepted without penalty up to one week late only if there is a written and justifiable explanation ("my printer ran out of ink," is not justifiable in college) (explanation due at the time the assignment was due). Grades will suffer on otherwise late essays 25% per week. If you are ill (or have car/computer trouble?!) you are encouraged to make arrangements to fax your assignment, or your written explanation and request for a one week extension. Quizzes and journal entries will not be accepted late. There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

### Grading:

Student grades will be based on both written and oral work. Regular participation in class discussions is required to earn a grade of "A." Sitting in your desk does not constitute participation. There will be unscheduled "quizzes" on the content of the assigned readings. Quizzes will assess whether or not and how well you read a particular assignment. A written final exam will be given during the assigned final-exam period. The final exam will cover the content of the entire course and include at least one substantial essay.

Participation	10%
Quizzes & In-Class Assignments	10%
Rhetoric Journal	10%
Essays	60%
Final Exam	10%

Anything in this document is subject to change as necessary to accommodate course needs.