

Provisional Syllabus ~~Philosophy 2~~ Critical Thinking 3 Units  
C.N. 81538 Reedley Thursday 6:00-8:50 Fall, 1999 Hum. Rm. 59  
Maynard ~~Linn~~ Instructor

**Course Objective:** Philosophy 2 is a course in critical thinking. It is evident, therefore, that in the course of this semester you will be asked to do some thinking of your own and to do it carefully, reflectively and with self-awareness. Using the Quinn book as assigned, you will encounter a wide summation of human experience and, in cases, some of the great minds in human culture. You will benefit markedly from such contact. A course objective is to assist you to build on and improve your writing skills. You will learn how to write with cogency and clarity, how to target your writing to specific audiences and how to keep good logic on your side as you engage in persuasive communication;.

**Course Requirements:** You are required to do the reading as assigned. I may resort to an occasional snap quiz to be sure there is no neglect of this assignment. Poor work in this regard will be subtracted from your next assignment's grade. There will be three writing assignments of six pages each. Each of these writing assignments represents 15% of your grade. An exam on logic is also 15% of your grade. Participation in class discussion is another 10% of the grade. The final exam contributes 25% of the grade for the course. Brief writing assignments from time to time comprise the final 5%.

**Grading:** The curve method of grading is not used. You may earn an "A" grade (or any other grade) by competing against a standard rather than against your peers.

**Textbooks:** (1) Audiences and Intentions: a Book of Arguments  
3rd Edition Authors: Bradbury and Quinn  
(2) The Elements of Reasoning Author: Edward  
Corbett

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. Roll will be taken each class session. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor after class so your absence can be changed to a tardy. You are allowed two absences for ill health or family needs. Further absences can result in your being dropped from the class or having your final grade penalized. Two tardies constitute an absence.

**Office hours:** I will remain after class sessions for as long as is needed.

CLASS SCHEDULE Philosophy 2 Reedley Fall, 1999

Week 1

Thur. Aug. 19 Writing Sample: "Perseverance" Handout: Elements of Argument Discuss: Confronting the Past Material on logic - induction, deduction, analogy, syllogism For next time, read: Corbett pp. 1-42, 47-59 Quinn pp. xvii, 2-14, 19-22

Week 2

Thur. Aug. 26 Logic - syllogisms, definitions, informal fallacies Discuss essays by Banning and Clemens Read: Corbett pp. 75-79, 105-120 Quinn pp. 22-36

Week 3

Thur. Sept. 2 LOGIC EXAM Discuss: Baraka, Austen, Gospel of Mark Reacting and Writing Read: Quinn pp. 40-79

Week 4

Thur. Sept. 9 Discuss: Gould, Martin Luther King Jr., Selzer Woolf, Reacting and Writing analyze Camus handout Read: Quinn pp. 79-122

Week 5

Thur. Sept. 16 Discuss: Four Native American Writers, St. Paul's two sermons, Vanzetti's letters, David's Elegy, Virgil, Kilpatrick Assignment: write a six page paper anchored in one or more essays in the text, giving a summary of the reading(s) and analyzing it as a type of argument. The paper will be due Sept. 30 Read: Quinn pp. 122-155

Week 6

Thur. Sept. 23 Discuss: Rich, Gorra, Forster, Didion, Salter, Denby, Dorris and Kael Read: Quinn pp. 155-188

Week 7

Thur. Sept 30 PAPER DUE Discuss: Kingston, Lopez, White, Marshall, Wilbur, Reacting and Writing Read: Quinn pp. 188-228

Week 8

Thur. Oct. 7 Discuss: Fisher (dual essays), Liebling, Eighner, Shakespeare Read: Quinn pp. 228-247

Week 9

Thur. Oct. 14 Discuss: Edwards, Sandburg, Cicero, Lakoff, Darwin, Allport, Hurston Read: Quinn pp. 247-279

Week 10

Thur. Oct. 21 Discuss: Wilkins, Jefferson, Fuentes, Homer, Woolf Read: Quinn pp. 279-284, 293-323

Week 11

Thur. Oct. 28 Discuss: Ethics and Argument Orwell, Swift, Plato, Weill Assignment: write a 2nd six page paper following the directions under Sept. 16 The paper is due Nov. 4 Read: Quinn pp. 323-356

Week 12

Thur. Nov. 4 PAPER DUE Discuss: Hitler, Churchill, Arendt, Ibsen, DeLaclos Read: Quinn pp.356-411

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Week 13

Thur. Nov. 11 CLASS DOES NOT MEET Veterans Day

Week 14

Thur. Nov. 18 Discuss: Euripedes, Soto, Plato, Mill, Flagburning,  
Lawrence

Read: Quinn pp. 411-442

Week 15

Thur. Nov. 25 CLASS DOES NOT MEET Thanksgiving Break

Week 16

Thur. Dec. 2 Discuss: Hentoff, Painter, Reacting and Writing,  
Seattle, Muir, Manson, Abbey

Read: Quinn pp. 442-480

Assignment: Write a 3rd six page paper. Due.  
Dec. 9

Week 17

Thur. Dec. 9 PAPER DUE Discuss: Thoreau, Brophy, Dillard, Askins,  
Chase, Genesis Passage, Augustine  
Study for Final

Week 18

Thur. Dec. 16 FINAL EXAM 6:00-7:50