

Critical Reasoning & Analytic Writing
PHIL-2-55344
Spring 2020
TR 2:00-3:15
CCI 204

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:50
TR 12:00-1:20
Or by Appointment

Description:

This is a course designed to develop skills in recognition, analysis, evaluation, and construction of arguments beyond the level achieved in English 1A. Topics include the distinction between deductive and inductive reasoning; identification of formal and informal fallacies; structures of valid arguments; important arguments of well-known philosophers. The central focus of the course is instruction and practice in the argumentative essay. Students will write a minimum of 6,000 words during the course of the semester.

Required Text:

Hurley A Concise Introduction to Logic 12th/13th ed.

Further resources will be posted on Canvas

Grading:

Problem Sets:	18%	(6 @ 3%)
Précis	5%	(1 @ 5%)
Writing Exercises:	10%	(2 @ 5%)
Argumentative Paper	22%	

Point Breakdown:

10 points Outline
10 points Process Reflection
80 points Final Paper

Midterm Exams:	30%	(3 @ 10%)
Final Exam:	15%	(1 @ 15%)

All assignments will be submitted on Canvas, with the exception of Problem Sets, which will be submitted as hard copies in class.

Final Grade Breakdown:

Percent of total points	Grade
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
50-59.99	F

Attendance: Students who have more than **4 absences during the first half of the semester may be dropped from the class.** Attendance will be taken at the very beginning of class. If you are not in your seat at the start of class, you will be marked absent. If you are late you **must raise your hand at the end of class until the instructor indicates that you have been marked as present.** There are **NO** excused

absences so save your absences for when you need them. In case of extreme circumstances contact your instructor.

NOTE: The instructor does not guarantee that students will be dropped after having more than 4 unexcused absences. Hence, if you decide to drop this class it is your responsibility to actually drop the class. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 'F' for this course.

Coursework:

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to complete readings before class and come prepared to discuss the readings. The date the reading is listed on the syllabus is the date we will be discussing the material so you need to read the sections prior to the class period the readings are listed for. It is recommended that students read all material at least twice, taking notes or creating outlines of the reading from which they can study.

Problem sets: Problem sets are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Problem sets will be given in class or posted on Canvas at least 4 days prior to their due date. Problem sets are graded.

Writing Assignments: Writing assignments will be completed at home and will be submitted Canvas by 11:59 on the day that they are due. Specific directions for each assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Exercises: Your textbook provides many practice exercises. You can find solutions to the starred exercises in the back of the textbook. We will work some of the un-starred exercises in class. It is expected that students will work through enough of the remaining exercises at home, checking their results with the answers provided in the back, to ensure mastery of the material **before completing the corresponding problem sets.**

Participation: Students are expected to come to class regularly having reviewed the assigned material. Students are expected to participate in all in-class assignments. Students may not work on anything from another class during class time, nor may they use electronic devices for any purpose other than those related to this course (except in case of emergency).

Seating Chart: A seating chart will be created during the first week of class. Students must sit in their assigned seats. Students who wish to change their assigned seats must ask the instructor. This is so that your instructor can keep track of your participation and be aware of your attendance levels, but more importantly it is so she can start to learn your names!

Examinations: There will be **three** exams in this course (two midterms and a final). They will be cumulative but will emphasize the material covered since the last exam. Anything in the readings or discussed in class is fair game for the exams. They will be similar in format to your homework. **Points may be taken off of your exam if you come to the exam late or if your cell phone makes noise during the exam.**

Behavioral Standards: Students are expected to do their best to be on time. Students should silence all cell phones before entering the classroom. **CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS IS ONLY PERMITTED FOR EMERGENCIES.** All students will treat each other with professional courtesy at all times. Students should participate regularly in class discussions and are encouraged to ask questions. Unless otherwise prompted, students should raise hands when they have questions or comments. Discussion with other

students during class work is encouraged, provided the focus of the discussion is the work being completed. Please do not whisper amongst yourselves while the instructor is lecturing, or while a fellow classmate is addressing the class with a question or comment. This is because such behavior is disrespectful to your fellow classmates, and because whispering, no matter how softly, is distracting to others. If you have a question during lecture then please raise your hand!

Late work/Absences:

Exams: Make-up **exams** will be granted on a case-by-case basis with **proof** of a valid excuse required. The instructor has final say as to what constitutes a valid excuse. If possible, students must discuss make-up exams with the instructor prior to the date of the exam. Failure to contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding missed exams may result in a score of 0 for the exam. Failure to provide documentation of a valid excuse may result in a score of 0 for the exam.

Late assignments:

Late assignments will receive a 1/3 letter grade deduction per day (not per class day). All problem sets are due at the beginning of class. All writing assignments are due on Canvas at 11:59 pm. After that the first 1/3 grade deduction begins and will continue until midnight on the following day. At that time, a second deduction of 1/3 grade will be incurred. Thereafter another 1/3 will be added at midnight every day. Exceptions will only be made with proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization), and are at the discretion of the instructor. No late work will be accepted after the last day of regular class.

Where to find your grade: Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas prior to them being returned to students. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP.** All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor. Participation scores will not be posted until after.

Special Needs Requests:

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's

permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Write a paper of at least 1,000 words which formulates and defends a convincing, clearly constructed argument addressing a philosophical problem of historically recognized importance.
2. Recognize basic valid and invalid argument forms.
3. Recognize common informal fallacies.
4. Construct arguments using basic valid forms.
5. Construct convincing inductive arguments.

Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Write précis of a series of classic philosophical texts in a series of homework assignments.
2. Discuss classic philosophical texts.
3. Lay out arguments, including arguments of historically recognized importance, in numbered premises and conclusions.
4. Confront the responsibility of accurately representing opposing views on a philosophical problem, especially views opposed to their own.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Reading and Composition

Important Dates:

1/31 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" IN PERSON
2/2 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" ON WEBADVISOR
3/13 LAST DAY TO DROP A FULL-TERM CLASS

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS (NO CLASS):

1/20 MLK, Jr. Day
 2/14 Lincoln Day
 2/17 Washington Day
 4/6-4/10 Spring Recess

The following course schedule is **tentative**. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Date	Plan
1/14	Introduction, Ch. 1.1 Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions
1/16	Ch. 1.2-1.3 Recognizing arguments. Deduction and Induction
1/21	Ch. 1.4 Validity, Truth Soundness, Strength, Cogency Ch. 1.5 Argument Forms: Proving Invalidity
1/23	Ch. 1.5 Argument Forms: Proving Invalidity (cont.)
1/28	Ch. 1.5 cont. Précis 1 Due
1/30	Ch. 3.1-3.2 Fallacies of Relevance
2/4	Ch. 3.2-3.3 Fallacies of Weak Induction Problem Set 1 Due
2/6	Ch. 3 Fallacies of Weak Induction
2/11	Ch. 3.4 Fallacies of Presumption, Ambiguity, and Illicit Transference
2/13	Ch. 3.5 Fallacies in Ordinary Language Problem Set 2 Due
2/18	Review
2/20	Midterm 1
2/25	Implicit Arguments (notes will be posted on Canvas)
2/27	Writing Exercise 1 Due Ch. 2.1-2.2 Varieties of Meaning. The Intension and Extension of Terms
3/3	Ch. 2.3 Definitions and Their Purposes
3/5	Ch. 2.4 Definitional Techniques
3/10	Problem Set 3 Due Ch. 4.1-4.2 The components of Categorical Propositions. Quality, Quantity, and Distribution
3/12	Ch. 4.2-4.3 Venn Diagrams and the Modern Square of Opposition
3/17	Ch. 4.3 cont.
3/19	Argumentative Paper Outline Due Ch. 4.4
3/24	Ch. 4.4 cont.

3/26	Problem Set 4 Due Ch. 4.5 The Traditional Square of Opposition
3/31	Review
4/2	Midterm 2
4/6-4/10	NO CLASS Spring Recess
4/14	Writing Exercise 2 Due Ch. 4.6 Venn Diagrams and the Traditional Standpoint
4/16	4.6 Cont.
4/21	Ch. 5.2 Venn Diagrams
4/23	Problem Set 5 Ch. 5.1 Standard Form, Mood, and Figure
4/28	Ch. 5.2 Venn Diagrams
4/30	Ch. 5.2 Venn Diagrams
5/5	Clifford "The Ethics of Belief" (posted on Canvas) James "The Will to Believe" (posted on Canvas)
5/7	Argumentative Paper Due Reflection Due Ch. 9.1 Analogical Reasoning
5/12	Problem Set 6 Thought Experiments in Reasoning Additional readings to be posted on Canvas
5/14	Review
5/19	FINAL EXAM: 2:00-3:50