Course Syllabus for Philosophy 2 - 58814 - Sp 2021 Critical Reasoning

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| **Semester/Year: Sp 2021**  **Units: 3** | **Instructor** : Dr. Chris Curry  **Office Hours:** TBA  **Office Location:** TBA  **Phone number:**  **Email** : [chris.curry@cloviscollege.edu](mailto:chris.curry@cloviscollege.edu) |
| **Length:**  16 weeks (Jan. 11 - May 21)  **Finals Week**:. May 17 - 21  **Schedule: TBA**  **Time**: TBA |  |

**Textbook**: Bassham, Irwin, Nardone, and Wallace. Critical Thinking: A Student’s Introduction. Sixth Edition. 2018.

**Course Description from the Catalogue:**

PREREQUISITES: English 1A or 1AH.

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. (A, CSU-GE, UC, I)

**Introductory Comment on the Course:**

**Logic** (or logical reasoning) is the scientific art of rational thinking. **Rational thinking is law-based thinking.** There are many logical laws which one must learn in order to think rationally.

**Student Learning Objectives**

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

1. Construct arguments using basic valid forms.

2. Construct convincing inductive arguments.

3. Recognize basic valid and invalid argument forms.

4. Recognize common informal fallacies.

5. 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.

**Course Schedule**

**Please Note:** The homework assignments from the book sometimes say that students should work in a group to answer questions. But we are not going to do that in this course. Just work individually.

* **Week 1 Jan 11.**

Introduction to the course. Read the Syllabus.

Cover basic logical issues. **Read ch. 1.**

(Our list of the 7 standards is a bit different from the book on pages 2-7)

* **Week 2 Jan. 18.**

Discuss the relativism (subjectivism) vs. objectivism (realism) debate. **Read pages 19-25.**

**Homework: Ex 1.4 page 22, Case 3 answer questions 1,3,5.**

**Review the list of critical and uncritical thinking traits on pgs. 26 and 27.**

**Homework: Based on this list do you think you are more critical or uncritical in your thinking?**

**Homework: Each homework answer should be only one or two sentences long.**

* **Week 3 Jan 25.**

Recognizing Arguments. **Read ch2.** **pg. 31-38**

**Homework: Ex 2.1, Roman numeral I pg. 34 #1-8**

**Homework: Ex 2.2, Roman numeral I pg. 38 #1,2,4,5,** AND **RN II pg.40 #3**

* **Week 4 Feb. 1.**

Cont. recognizing arguments.

Non-argumentative **passages Ch2 read pages 42- 50.**

**Homework: Ex. 2.4 RN I #1-5,26,28.**

* **Week 5 Feb 8.**

The importance of using language precisely. **Read 97-106**

Manipulating words to get a favorable or unfavorable emotional reaction, including slanting the truth. **Read 109-113.**

Euphemisms and Political Correctness. **Read 119 - 123.**

**Homework: Ex. 4.5 pg. 121f Pick any 3 pairs for analysis.**

* **Week 6 Feb. 15.**

Recognizing and distinguishing between the two basic kinds of arguments: Deduction and Induction. **Read ch.3 This chapter is crucial for the whole course!!**

Distinguishing between the arguments. **Read pg. 56-64. Note the summary on page 64.**

**Homework: Ex 3.1 RN I pg. 57 #1-2**

* **Week 7 Feb. 22.**

The 5 kinds of deductive arguments, and 6 kinds of inductive arguments. **Read ch. 3 pg. 65-88. Note the summary on pg. 87f.**

**Homework: Ex 3.2 pg. 67-68 #2,3,6,8.** AND **Ex 3.5 pg.88f #2,3,5,6.**

* **Week 8 March 1.**

Cont. Ch. 3. **Do Ex. 3.5 RN. IV Pg. 88f # 8,9,11,15,20.**

* **Week 9 March 8.**  \*\* REVIEW \*\*\*\*\*\* **FIRST EXAM.** \*\*\*\*\*\*

Evaluating arguments and premises. **Read Pg. 199-211**

**Homework Ex. 8.3 RN. I Pg. 211 #2-6** AND **RN. II pg. 211 #3,6.** AND **RN. III Pg. 211 #2,5.**

**Browse ch. 13, especially pgs. 412f and 421 summary.**

**Homework Why is it important to be able to write a critical essay? — 1 paragraph**

* **Week 10 March 15.**

Categorical Logic **Read ch. 9. Homework Ex. 9.2 pg. 245 #2,3,6,8,9.**

* **Week 11 March. 22.**

Be able to do ex. 9.4 pg. 260 #2,3. **Homework Ex. 9.3 pg. 248 # 2,3,5,6,8.**

* **Week 12 March 29.**

Inductive reasoning. **Read ch. 11. Homework Ex. 11.1 pg. 303 # 2,3.** and **Ex. 11.2 RN. I pg. 306f #2,3.** AND **Ex. 11.10 RN. I pg. 331f #2,5,8**

* **Week 13 April 5.**

Probability and Logical Fallacies. **Read ch.5. Homework: 5.2 RN. I. PG. 138 #3,5,6,12.**

* **Week 14 April 12.**

Fallacies of Relevance. **Read ch. 6. Homework: 6.1 RM I. #2,5,6,8,9.**

* **Week 15 April 19.**

**A.** Science and the Problems of Scientism and Pseudo Science. **Read pg. 465-482 Ex. 15.2 pg. 476 #8,9.** AND **15.3 Ex. pg. 482 #2,3.**

**B.** Thinking Critically about the Media. **Read pg. 422-438 Ex. 14.2 pg. 438 #3,8,7.**

* **Week 16 April 26**

Review.

**Final exam.**

**COURSE MECHANICS.**

This class requires a Midterm, a Final, and a term paper.

Your participation is acquired through Zoom attendance and Participation Question Assignment submissions.

Midterm = 30 points

Final = 30 points

Term Paper = 20 points

Homework = 15 points

Zoom = 5 points

For a total of 100 points.

Grading policies: As a rule, there will be no make-up tests.

To earn a grade in the “ A” range, the student must score an average of at least 90% on the exams, assignments, and participation. This will show that the student has a very good and demonstrable understanding of the implications and presuppositions involved in each of the theories and positions that we cover and is able to critically evaluate them correctly. **To do this, one must adhere to the 7 standards as listed below.**

To earn a grade in the “B” range, the student must score an average of at least 80%.

To earn a grade in the “C” range, the student must score an average of at least 70 %.

To earn a grade in the D range, the student must score an average of at least 60 %.

**The 7 grading standards will be the logical standards of clarity, precision, logical correctness, completeness, conciseness, relevance, and accuracy.**

**DISCLAIMER:**

**All readings, assignments, test dates, due dates for papers, and Zoom dates are subject to change during the semester at the discretion of the professor.**

**ZOOM MEETINGS:**

The tentative plan is to have Zoom meetings every other week. I will send out an email concerning scheduling the first Zoom meeting.

**Course/classroom policies**

All course discussion, reading assignments, other assignments, and test dates are approximate and subject to change during the semester at the discretion of the professor.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and bring their relevant notes and textbook with them for the purpose of review and discussion. If the student misses more than three sessions, he/she should contact the professor. Too many absences always leads to a lower, or even failing, grade. Each student is an important part of the university community and an important part of the class room community. So the student should not engage in any annoying behaviors that would cause him/her to break himself/herself off from these communities. We are all expected to show respect to one another.

**Please** avoid all unnecessary private conversations during the class sessions because this is considered to be rude, annoying, and insulting to the professor and to fellow students.

The student should also be familiar with the university standards and academic integrity standards as stated in the undergraduate catalogue, since the student will be held to these standards. Any form of cheating will result, at minimum, in an “F” for the exam/project in question, and possibly expulsion.

**University policy summaries**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY SUMMARIES**

For complete policy details check the current Academic Catalog.

**Attendance Policy**

The university expects regular class attendance by all students. Those students who will be absent for an extended period of time should contact their program director or advisor who will discuss the options available, such as a leave of absence. Students may view their attendance records on CampusCruiser.

**Registration**

Only individuals who are registered may attend classes. Non-registered students may not turn in assignments, take tests or receive grades.

**Course Drop Policy**

Refunds and grades for dropped courses are based on the last day of attendance. Each week the refund amount decreases. Students who do not attend at least one class during the first week of a course will be administratively dropped from the course by the Registrar’s Office. After the first week of class, failure to drop courses in a timely manner will result in failed grades and financial responsibility for payment.

**Academic Honesty/Integrity**

Everyone who participates in the educational process at FPU is expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Cases of academic dishonesty are first handled between instructors and students. Depending upon the severity of the case, consequences may range from partial credit after work is redone to expulsion from the university. As in all situations where a member of the university violates the behavioral and academic expectations of the community, opportunity for restoration and restitution will be extended to those willing to work to correct the situation and reconcile with the university community

**Behavioral Standards**

Student behaviors disruptive to the educational process may result in the student being dismissed from a class or a program.

**Sexual Harassment Policy**

Harassment of a student or an employee of the University by other students, employees, supervisors, or agents of Fresno Pacific University will not be tolerated. All reports of harassment will be taken seriously, promptly investigated and addressed by FPU in accordance with university policies and procedures.

**Responsible Use of Technology**

The use of campus computing resources at Fresno Pacific University is a privilege, not a right. Violations of university guidelines on computer use will result in disciplinary action, which may include any of the following: warnings, loss of computer privileges, suspension, or legal prosecution.

**Disability**

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Support Center to discuss academic and other needs as soon as they are diagnosed with a disability. Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made.

**Incompletes**

Incomplete grades are to be issued only in the case of absence from classes due to unexpected and unavoidable circumstances, such as illness, accident or death in the immediate family, which have made it impossible for the student to complete all course requirements as scheduled. A grade of incomplete is not to be issued for unsatisfactory work or failure to submit work through negligence. Student must submit the appropriate form, available online from Registrar’s Office.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students are expected to make satisfactory progress toward completion of their program by maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher for associate/baccalaureate students, 3.0 or higher for graduate students and 2.5 or 3.0 (for seminary students, depending on the program). Cumulative grade-point average is based on FPU coursework only.

**Student and Faculty Dispute Resolution**

Occasionally a student may find cause to question the action of a professor regarding requirements of a course, teaching effectiveness, comments made in a class that seem derogatory or inflammatory, criticism of the student, general performance or sanctions given for academic dishonesty. Students should first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If the student and faculty member cannot resolve the issue satisfactorily or if the student does not feel comfortable speaking directly with the instructor the student should consult with the chair of the division in which the course is lodged, who will attempt to resolve the issue. Decisions may be appealed to the dean of the appropriate school for a final resolution.

**Right to Petition**

Request for exception to academic policies may be made when there are extenuating circumstances such as a serious medical condition, a death in the immediate family or other traumatic, unforeseen events. Students should complete a petition form, along with the nonrefundable fee, and submit it to the Registrar’s Office. Petitions will be forwarded to the appropriate academic official or committee for consideration and decision.

**Privacy**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Check the university website for details.