



Philosophy 103-01-1: Critical Thinking, Fall Day 2010

Time: TR 12:30–1:50pm Instructor: Carl M. Johnson
Location: Henry 207 Email: carl.johnson@adjunct.chaminade.edu

Course Description:

Designed to be more than a study of non-formal reasoning methods, the course includes but is not limited to the study of logical fallacies. Assembling approaches from analytic philosophy, literary theory and cultural studies, the course models the rhetorical dimension of language and discourse. The course is useful for those who want to think, write and talk in a clear and straight forward manner.

Course Text:

Vaughn, Lewis. *The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning About Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims*. Third Ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780195377927.

Assessment:

Homework (20% of total grade)

Students must attend class to receive and turn in homework assignments. There will be eleven assignments, which correspond to the eleven chapters in the course textbook. Homework will be evaluated for completeness and graded as complete (100%), partially complete (50%), or incomplete (0%).

Analyses (40% of total grade)

The course is divided into four segments: Introduction, Reasons, Arguments, and Explanations. At the end of each of the segments, students must turn in an analysis of a text using the techniques covered in class. Each individual analysis will count for 10% of students' final grades. Analyses are tentatively due Thurs., Sept. 16; Tues., Oct. 5; Tues., Nov. 2; and Thurs., Dec. 2. Students may optionally turn in a revision of their analyses within one week of receiving it back from the instructor. If a revision is turned in, the final grade of the analysis will be the average of the original grade and the revised grade.

Tests (30% of total grade)

At the end of each of the first three segments of the course, there will be a test. Each individual test will count for 10% of students' final grades. The tests are tentatively scheduled for Tues., Sept. 14; Thurs., Sept. 30; and Thurs., Oct. 28.

Final Exam (10% of total grade)

The final exam will be cumulative, covering both the final segment of the course and all prior material. It will be held on Tues., Dec. 7, 2010 at 12:45 – 2:45 PM.

Lateness Policy:

Homework will be collected in class on the due date and will not be accepted late without prior permission. Failure to turn in an analysis on time will result in a five percent penalty per day with a maximum penalty of twenty-five percent. If you know ahead of time that you will need to miss a class due to work, sports, illness, or some other extracurricular activity, you must contact the instructor in advance to receive permission to miss class. In general, exceptions to the lateness policy are possible only with a doctor's note detailing serious illness. In the event of a death in the family, please email your phone number to the instructor in order to personally discuss the situation and its impact on your participation in class.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism of analyses and cheating on tests, will not be tolerated. The instructor has summarily failed students caught engaging in academic dishonesty in the past and will not hesitate to do so again in the future. *You have been warned.*