



Philosophy 103-02-1: Critical Thinking, Spring Day 2013

Time: MWF 8:30am–9:20am **Location:** Henry 102
Office: Henry 206-C **Instructor:** Carl M. Johnson, Ph.D.
Office Hours: MWF 9:30am–10:20am **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: 978-0-19-985667-1.

Assessment:

Homework (25% of total grade)

Students must attend class to receive and turn in homework assignments. Homework will be evaluated by a randomly selected peer for completeness and graded as **complete** (a good faith effort was made to solve every problem), **partially complete** (a majority of problems were attempted), or **incomplete** (many problems remain unattempted or unfinished).

Analyses (8% each, 32% total)

The course is divided into four segments: Basics, 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 8% of students' final grades. 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 (10% each, 30% total)

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.

Final Exam (13% 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 **Thursday, May 9 at 8:30am**.

Lateness Policy:

Homework must be completed by the beginning of class the day after it is assigned to receive full credit. Homework may however be turned in late to receive half credit. Failure to turn in an analysis on time will result in a five percent penalty per day with a maximum penalty of fifteen percent.

If you know ahead of time that you will need to miss a class due to deployment, 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.

Disability Statement:

I am happy to accommodate any students with disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify with the Director of Personal Counseling in order to receive accommodations. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive services. Contact the Director of Personal Counseling at (808) 739-4603 or email: <jyasuhar@chaminade.edu>.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, will not be tolerated.

The instructor is not hesitant about **failing** any student suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty. Failure to properly quote and cite sources used in a paper is one of the many forms of academic dishonesty. All materials turned in by students must reflect their own work and not that of any other person. Simple guidelines to follow are **if you read it cite it** and **quote don't paraphrase**. 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.*