

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall '99 Evening Session
October 4 - December 16, 1999
Schofield

COURSE: PH 10310 Critical Thinking

TIME: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays; 11:40 - 12:40

INSTRUCTOR: Marty H. Heitz, Ph.D.
 497-5298 E-mail: marty@hawaii.edu

TEXTBOOK: *Becoming a Critical Thinker: A User Friendly Manual* by Sherry Diestler (Prentice-Hall: Second Edition, 1998)

Description:

Designed to be more than a study of non-formal reasoning methods, this course assembles approaches from analytic philosophy, literary theory and cultural studies, modeling the rhetorical dimension of language and discourse. The course is useful for those who want to think, write, and speak in a clear and straight forward manner.

Objectives:

- to understand and be able to evaluate the structure, content and quality of arguments
- to be able to objectively analyze print and oral communication
- to be able to clearly communicate your positions about issues and to support your positions with solid evidence
- to understand how critical thinking can be applied to decision-making in daily life

Class Format:

This class will usually be held "seminar style," to facilitate interaction and discussion among all the students. Homework assignments will be turned in each Monday, followed by a brief quiz on the previous week's material and an introductory lecture on new material. Tuesdays and Wednesdays will begin with lecture on the material in Diestler's book, followed by in-class assignments (some individual, some group work). Thursdays will be reserved for review and general discussion and analysis of a previously agreed-upon topic or reading. Students will be expected to be fully prepared for each class.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance, as well as coming to class on time, is required in order to complete the course (unexpected conflicts such as illness or deployment will be excused on a case by case basis with proper documentation, according to the University policy as published in the handbook). Students *must contact* the instructor by phone ASAP for make-up work.
- All assignments are to be turned in on time—late papers will not be accepted without a proper excuse.
- Students will be expected to participate in group discussions, and to allow others to express their ideas without interruption.
- All handouts are considered required reading, and might be used for test questions.

Grading:

• <u>Participation</u>	20 pts.
This includes group discussions.	
• <u>Oral Presentation and Critique</u>	30 pts.
This includes your speech (not more than 4 minutes) as well as your analysis of a classmate's argument (not more than 2 minutes).	
• <u>In-Class Assignments</u>	40 pts.
Two assignments per week @ 2 points each; extra-credit options will be announced.	
• <u>Homework</u>	40 pts.
Ten homework assignments @ 4 points each; due at the beginning of each week.	
• <u>Quizzes</u>	70 pts.
Ten quizzes @ 7 points each; one quiz on each chapter.	
	TOTAL = 200 pts.

Grading Criterion as stated in the Chaminade undergraduate catalog are as follows:

- A - Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
- B - Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.
- C - Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter.
- D - Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, is not satisfactory for fulfillment or prerequisite coursework.
- F - Failed to grasp even the minimum subject matter; no credit given.
- I - Did not complete a small portion of the work or final examination due to circumstances beyond the student's control.

The issuance of an "I" grade is not automatic. Prior to reporting of grades a contract must be made between the student and the instructor for the completion of the course. Sufficient time should be allowed to permit completion of the work, evaluation, and reporting of the final grade within 90 days after the end of the semester or term. This limit may not be extended. If a new grade for the course is not submitted by the instructor prior to the deadline, the alternate grade, indicated in the contract, will be recorded.

Preliminary Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>		<u>Reading Assignments</u>
1	October	4	Introduction
		5	Issues & Conclusions
		6	Reasons
		7	Discussion/Review
2		11	HOLIDAY - NO CLASS
		12	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 1; Intro Ch. 2
		13	Value Assumptions, Ethics
		14	Discussion/Review
3		18	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 2; Intro Ch. 3
		19	Reality Assumptions, Deduction
		20	Deductive Truth and Reasoning
		21	Discussion/Review
4		25	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 3; Intro Ch. 4
		26	Statistical Evidence & Generalization
		27	Technical Causation
		28	Discussion/Review
5	November	1	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 4; Intro Ch. 5
		2	Evaluating Research Findings
		3	Expert Testimony, Analogy
		4	Discussion/Review
6		8	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 5; Intro Ch. 6
		9	Inadequate Reason Fallacies
		10	Fallacies that Mislead
		11	HOLIDAY - NO CLASS
7		15	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 6; Intro Ch. 7
		16	Denotation and Connotation
		17	Ambiguity and Vagueness
		18	Discussion/Review
8		22	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 7; Intro Ch. 8
		23	Televised Suggestion
		24	Suggestion in Print Media
		25	HOLIDAY - NO CLASS
9		29	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 8; Intro Ch. 9
		30	Trouble Being Rational
		1	The Art of Listening
10	December	2	Discussion/Review
		6	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 9; Intro Ch. 10
11		7	Persuasive Speaking
		8	Oral Presentation Workshop (have rough draft ready!!)
		9	Discussion/Review; Presentation Drafts Due
		13	HW due; Quiz, Ch. 10; ORAL PRESENTATIONS
12		14	ORAL PRESENTATIONS
		15	" "
		16	" "
			" " ; Evaluations & Aloha!!