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Chaminade University of Honolulu
Summer Interim Session 1999
Course Outline

~~PHILOSOPHY 10320~~
Critical Thinking

Kaneohe MCBH
June 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, July 2
Weekdays 17:30-21:40, Saturdays 8:00-12:10

Instructor:
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Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PH 10320: *Critical Thinking* (3 Credits)

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 straightforward manner.

REQUIRED TEXT

Current Issues & Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking and Argument, with Readings,
Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau, Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

COURSE CONTENT

This class explores the nature of critical thinking. Critical thinking involves a reasoning process that can help one make rational decisions concerning what to believe. The use of critical thinking can help one understand what is at issue in any situation requiring a decision concerning what to believe; and it can serve as a guide in evaluating whether there are reasons strong enough to support one view or another. The processes involved in critical thinking include becoming aware of our emotions and reflecting upon them, identifying values, assessing information and the authorities who provide it, analyzing and clarifying language, imagining solutions to problems, evaluating alternative solutions, and assessing and producing arguments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course it is expected that the student will be better able to:

- * think rationally and critically evaluate arguments and issues in their daily life.
- * understand and rationally respond to the critical social issues of the day.
- * distinguish the difference between an emotional disagreement and a well-thought out, persuasive argument.
- * identify the valid, persuasive arguments, as well as the fallacies of bad reasoning.
- * demonstrate the qualities of being an objective reader, listener and communicator.
- * communicate by delivering clearer, more effective statements.
- * analyze and respond to the arguments of others.
- * make sound arguments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are expected to attend class regularly, read the assigned material, and to participate in classroom projects and discussion. Anticipated absences should be discussed with the instructor. As attendance is critical to achieving the goals and objectives of the course, attendance will be monitored throughout the semester. The grade for the course will be determined by a final paper (50%) and in-class exercises (50%). Attendance and class participation will play a factor if a student's average is on the border between two grades. Course grades will be determined as follows:

Final Grade

- A Excellent achievement
- B Above average achievement
- C Average achievement
- D Minimal passing achievement
- F Not passing