

SE '02

60
Philosophy 103: Critical Thinking
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Spring 2002 Pearl Harbor

Friday, 16:45-20:55

Instructor: James A. Stroble, Ph. D.

email: stroble@hawaii.edu

Catalog Description: 103 Critical Thinking (3)

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. Offered annually.

Instructor's Course Description: This is a course in applied philosophy, where we will be covering the basics of logic, or correct reasoning, as well as the uses of incorrect reasoning and argumentation. Some introductory background of the history of philosophy will be covered, as well as the relation of philosophy to rhetoric or persuasive speaking. In addition we will cover some methods of thinking clearly, such as the scientific method, philosophical scepticism, difficulties with concepts like causation, the ethics of argumentation, and the possibilities of rational debate between differing cultural traditions.

Evaluation: We will have a mid-term examination (30%) and a final examination(50%). In addition, students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in class discussion (20%), which requires attendance. There are no excused absences, and missing more than one session will affect the final grade in the course.

Text: *The Art of Deception : An Introduction to Critical Thinking : How to : Win an Argument, Defend a Case, Recognize a Fallacy, See Through a Deception,* by Nicholas Capaldi. In addition some further materials will be assigned, either handouts or accessible on the Internet.

Schedule

April 5: Introduction to the course and each other.

April 12: Capaldi, CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION. What is Logic? What is an Argument? When is an Argument Acceptable?

April 19: Capaldi, CHAPTER TWO: IDENTIFYING ARGUMENTS. Arguments. Difficulties in Identifying Arguments. Grammar, Punctuation , and Reading Comprehension. Rules for Identifying Premises and Conclusions.

April 26: Capaldi, CHAPTER THREE: FORMAL ANALYSIS OF ARGUMENTS. Ideal

of Logic. Syllogisms. Rules for Valid Syllogisms. Soundness and Informal Logic.

May 3: Capaldi, CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTING YOUR CASE. Gaining a Sympathetic Audience. Presenting the Facts. Driving Home the Conclusion. Nonverbal Devices. Advertising as a Case Study.

May 10: Capaldi, CHAPTER FIVE: ATTACKING AN ARGUMENT. Audience Reaction. Anatomy of Refutation. Attacking the Conclusion. Face-to-Face Debate.
One hour Mid-term examination.

May 17: Capaldi, CHAPTER SIX: DEFENDING YOUR CASE. Counterattack. Winning the Argument. Going for a Tie.

May 24: Capaldi, CHAPTER SEVEN: CAUSE-AND-EFFECT REASONING. History of the Concept of 'Causation'. Hume's Definition of Cause and Effect. Causal Reasoning as Practical. Mill's Methods. Fallacies of Causal Reasoning. Problems with the Concept of 'Causation'.

May 31: Discourse Ethics: Toward an ethic of pragmatic communication. Readings to be assigned.

June 7: InterCultural Communication and Logical Imperialism. Readings to be assigned.
Two hour Final Examination.