

PH 103
C. Umri

SS101
Chris

Course Information

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No instructor Name

PH 103

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1 Course description and objectives.

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Remove Item

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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 introduces the student to a variety of modern critical perspectives. The methods of criticism taught in this course is especially useful to those who like journalism, reviewing, or film critiquing.

Objectives.

The main objective of the course is to learn how to critique various kinds of texts. The concept of a text is taken broadly to mean an essay, a poem, a short story or novel, a film, a video production, an advertisement, a commercial, an architecture a painting or any thing that is a product of culture. Students will be introduced to the concepts, theories and methods of various types of critical thinking drawn from logic, cultural studies, social theory, and literary theory.

Specific Objectives

We will learn how to write specifically the following types of critiques:

- (1) Logical critique.
- (2) Liberal Humanist critique.
- (3) New Literary critique.
- (4) Psychoanalytic critique.
- (5) Marxist critique.
- (6) Structuralist Critique.
- (7) Post structuralist Critique.
- (8) Feminist critique.
- (9) Cultural critique.

- (10) Historicist Critique.
- (11) Lesbian/Homosexual critique.
- (12) Postcolonial critique.
- (13) Modernist critique.
- (14) Postmodernist critique.

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2 Method of instruction

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- (1) The 2001 summer session (I) is a six weeks course. It starts on the 21st of May and ends on the 29th of June.
- (2) Two new lesson or lecture will be posted on line at the beginning of every week.
- (3) There will thus be 12 lessons or lectures the content of which the student will be expected to master.
- (4) The relevant readings in the book for each of these lectures will also be specified. Where there are no references to a specified reading in the text book the students should learn the contents of the lecture posted on line.
- (5) Every friday there will be posted a test on line which the student should take. Each student can take the test only once. The test is automatically scored. The score is automatically posted to your on line grade book.
- (6) Additionally there may be other homework assignments that may be posted from time to time.
- (7) The instructor may also make other assignments mainly in the form of requiring you to write critiques of different kind. The instructions for how to write these critiques will be posted with the assignments. The assignments will have deadlines and they should be done on or before that dead line. You should visit the assignment section of the course to note any assignments posted.
- (8) The student should daily check the course site for any new announcements. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the readings and assignments. Deadlines, where they apply are strictly enforced.
- (9) The instructor will check for e-mails twice everyday and reply any mail that the students may post. When sending e-mails please specify your name, the course you are taking and if possible in addition to your e-mail also give a telephone number in the vent the

e-mail system experiences difficulties.

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3 Text and readings

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Required text.

Donald Hall, LITERARY AND CULTURAL THEORY.

Recommended reading

- (1) Peter Barry, BEGINNING THEORY
- (2) Lois Tyson, CRITICAL THEORY TODAY.
- (3) Nigel Warburton, THINKING FROM A TO Z

Nigel Warburton's book contains clear and simple explanations of the main logical fallacies with useful examples.

Other useful links may be posted from time to time which you should check out.

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4 Grading standards

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The following grading standards are specified in the Chaminade catalog 2000-2001, page 42.

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 the subject matter.

D= Inferior work of the lowest passing grade.

F= Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no grades given.

I shall take into consideration the level at which you perform in the tests and the various critiques you write in determining your final course grade.