

PHIL 102: Critical Thinking & Reasoning – FALL 2010

WNC – Online Class (W01)

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Transferability within Nevada: Transfers as a 3-credit class in Critical Thinking.

This course links to the following “General Education Student Learning Outcomes” in the 2009-2010 WNC catalog http://www.wnc.edu/academics/general_education/ :

Students who complete a degree at WNC are expected to demonstrate they:

1. have college-level skills in reading, writing, and oral communication.
2. have problem solving, creative, and critical thinking skills.

Instructor: Susan Priest

Email: spriest@wnc.edu

Office: Cedar 311

Phone: 775-445-3318

Office Hours (8/30 – 12/17/10): Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 PM; Tuesday 1:15-2:15 & Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 PM. *I am also available at other times, by appointment.*

****NOTE – Office Hours may change during the semester, but I will announce this online and update my website if this happens.**

MY Website: www.susanpriest.com *Check it out and tell me what you think! Class syllabi and other helpful hints are located on the website.*

Online Class: Login to WebCampus: (online learning platform):

<http://webcampus.wnc.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>. If you have never done this before read first time directions here: <http://www.wnc.edu/webcampus/login.php>. IF you have problems with your log in, contact the Reference Librarians at (775-445-3227.) They will help you. Please, also let me know if you are experiencing difficulty.

Take advantage of your instructor's Office Hours ☺!

I) **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Covers non-symbolic introduction to logical thinking in everyday life, law, politics, science, advertising; common fallacies; and the uses of language, including techniques of persuasion.

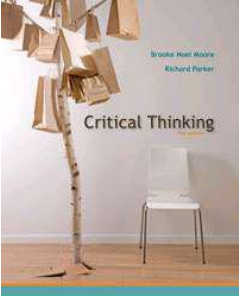
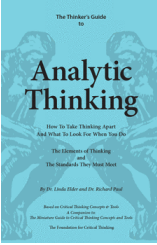
II) **COURSE OBJECTIVES – The Successful Student Will:**

- A) Identify and understand the parts of an argument, the logic of deductive and inductive arguments, common fallacies, common rhetorical devices, and the difference between moral legal and aesthetic reasoning;
- B) identify the elements and standards of reason as tools to analyze arguments, texts, and images in the media and the modern world;
- C) analyze arguments in everyday life, law, politics, education, advertising, media and other fields of knowledge;
- D) practice critical thinking skills in everyday life and oral communication; and
- E) demonstrate critical thinking skills in college-level writing.

III) **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

This class will be taught online with an emphasis on class discussion. Other methods will include mini-lectures, film analysis, and other analytical exercises.

IV) **REQUIRED READING:**

	<p>TEXT (TX) <i>Critical Thinking, 9th Edition</i>. Brooke Noel Moore and Richard Parker, McGraw-Hill: 2009.</p>
	<p>READER (RD) <i>Analytic Thinking</i>, Linda Elder and Richard Paul, Foundation for Critical Thinking: 2007.</p>

V) **COURSE REQUIREMENTS/CALENDAR – STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:**

A) **Preparation & Participation** **50 Points**

Even in an online class it is important to be prepared and participate in all levels of class, especially class discussion. Being prepared and participating includes **completing the reading assignments, writing response papers and practicing the philosophical exercises, as needed**. Use the Calendar of Assignments to prepare for class.

Be Prepared & Participate:

- “90% of success is showing up.” Woody Allen
- Complete reading assignments **and** all homework assignments.
- If you participate in every one of the 10 discussion posts on time (including responding to other classmates), you will earn 50 points. ***These points will be awarded at the end of the semester!***
- If you are late submitting, skip a discussion or fail to respond to other classmates, you will lose 5 points. (e.g., If you miss 2 discussion posts over the semester, you will earn 40 points.)

A word on class discussions in Philosophy 102: We will be actively practicing argumentation in this class. By argument I do not mean verbal attacks or accusations, but the practice of honestly examining the rationality and logic of ideas. To that end, it will be important for all of us to take a civilized approach to

discussions both by practicing respect and not mistaking honest inquiry for personal attacks.

B) Exercises, Discussions & Writing Assignments

300 Points

When you first access WebCampus you will see a **START HERE** button. If you follow those directions you will see that after you have completed the SYLLABUS QUIZ and earned 100% (NOTE: You can take it as many times as you want until you earn 100%.) you will have access to the lectures, discussion posts and writing assignments -- contained in Learning Modules.

Discussions in WebCampus (100 points) – As a way to discuss and extend our appreciation of the interdisciplinary field of the Humanities, you will be invited to participate in 10 discussions over the course of the semester. **You are required to make 1 original posting, and 3 responses to other people’s postings for each of these discussions.** The responses to classmates are intended to give you an opportunity to explore critical thinking topics, and to practice fair-minded critical thinking and inquiry. To that end, it is important that your posts and responses demonstrate a thoughtful contribution to the conversation. “Yeah, I agree with you.” or “I disagree.” will not earn points.

- ❑ **Discussion #1 (10 points) – Introductions & Defining Critical Thinking (Week 2)**
- ❑ **Discussion #2 (10 points) – TBA (Week 3)**
- ❑ **Discussion #3 (10 points) – TBA (Week 4)**
- ❑ **Discussion #4 (10 points) – TBA (Week 5)**
- ❑ **Discussion #5 (10 points) – TBA (Week 6)**
- ❑ **Discussion #6 (10 points) – TBA (Weeks 7)**
- ❑ **Discussion #7 (10 points) – TBA (Week 10)**
- ❑ **Discussion #8 (10 points) – TBA (Week 11)**
- ❑ **Discussion #9 (10 points) – TBA (Week 12)**
- ❑ **Discussion #10 (10 points) – TBA (Week 14)**

Online Writing Assignments (160 points) – These are opportunities to practice using the elements and standards of reason, and the language of critical thinking to analyze arguments from different domains of knowledge (e.g., media, politics, academics, and everyday life.) They will be submitted in WebCampus (CE8) and sometimes Turnitin.com. Complete prompts and directions for these assignments will be posted online. They are not intended to more than 2-3 pages of writing, but it will depend on the assignment. Late writing assignments will lose 5 points, and not be accepted after two weeks. *I will count your top 4 scores.*

- ❑ **Homework #1: Identifying parts of arguments (40 points) - Week 3**
- ❑ **Homework #2: TBA (40 points) -- Week 5**
- ❑ **Homework #3: TBA (40 points) – Week 7**
- ❑ **Homework #4: Argument analysis & reconstruction (40 points) – Week 11**
- ❑ **Homework #5: Argument analysis & reconstruction (40 points) – Week 14**

Final Critical Thinking Assignment ~ Self-Assessment Project (50 points): Ultimately, critical thinking is a process that must be applied to your life. Ultimately, critical thinking is only useful so long as we apply it to our own life and work. Your final writing assignment

will be a critical reflection of your own work in this class utilizing 7 Intellectual Standards – *Clarity, Accuracy, Relevancy, Depth, Breadth, Logic, and Fairness*. Explicit directions are posted in WebCampus (Blackboard/CE8). **DUE WEEK 15.**

HOW YOUR WRITING WILL BE EVALUATED: The following are some general guidelines that I will be following when I grade your written work, both questions for the formal discussion and writing assignments:

- All writing (including questions for formal discussions) will follow standard practices of English Grammar. For full-credit you will write in complete sentences. Please, NO “text message” symbols or shortcuts will be accepted.
- You are not being asked to write a research paper and/or search for sources. However, if you do consult other resources in writing any homework assignment or in your Final Self-Assessment Paper you must use MLA (Modern Language Association) format to cite your sources. **(Otherwise you will be plagiarizing.)**
- I will use the **CARS-L** method of evaluating the form and content of your writing. Is your writing **Clear, Accurate, Relevant, have you used Sufficient support, and is your writing Logical?**

****NOTE:** READ the Grading Forms (Rubric) Attached to each homework/writing assignment and the Final Self-Assessment to get further clarification on grading.

C) ASSESSMENTS, QUIZZES & EXAMS

250 Points

PRE- and POST- Critical Thinking Assessment (50 points): At the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester, you will be required to take a non-graded assessment of your critical thinking skills. The idea is that you will earn 25 points for taking these pre- and post- critical thinking assessments, regardless of the outcome. This is an opportunity to measure your own development from the beginning to the end of the course.

QUIZZES (75 points): 5 quizzes will be given in class throughout the semester covering material from the required reading and lectures. (These quizzes may contain True/False, Multiple Choice and Short-Answer Questions.) Each quiz will be worth 25 points. They are open book, but they will be timed and you will only have 1 hour to complete them. I will drop the “2” lowest quiz grades. There are no make-up quizzes; if you miss a quiz deadline you will earn a “0.” *Quizzes will be on Weeks 2, 4, 6, 12 and 14.*

EXAMS (125 points): There will be 2 proctored-exams covering the material from the required reading, lectures and discussions. **These exams will take about 1 ½ hours at an approved WNC location or alternate site. Please contact the instructor immediately if you have any issues.** You will be responsible to make an appointment and communicate with the instructor. These exams may contain “take-home” essays that you prepare ahead of time. The exams will be a mix of true/false, multiple choice, short answer questions, and/or essays. I will post a study guide a week or two before these exams begin with more information about the topics covered and possible essay questions. It will likely be a paper-and-pencil exam.

➤ **Mid-Term (75 points):** *Between Wednesday of Week 8 and Thursday of Week 9.*

- **Final-Exam (50 points):** Between Thursday of Week 15 and Wednesday of Week 16.
(NOTE: This exam is a course requirement. Translation: you must take this exam to pass the class. I may change the format of the Final Exam...stay tuned after the Mid-Term Exam.)

There are no make-up “Exams” -- As a general rule, I do not allow “make-up” exams. You need to write these time frames down and show up on these days if you want these points. In cases of EXTREME hardship and emergency, you MUST contact the instructor BEFORE these time frames to inquire about alternative arrangements.

CALENDAR of Topics, Reading, Discussion, Writing, Quiz & Exam Due Dates:

WK	Date	Topics	Reading (To Be Completed)	Assignment DUE:
1	8/30/10- 9/5/10	SYLLABUS – <i>Why study Critical Thinking? What is Critical Thinking? (Various Definitions)</i>	SYLLABUS <i>The Thinkers Guide to Analytic Thinking (pages 4-22)</i>	DUE: Complete Syllabus Quiz and Pre-Assessment in Critical Thinking.
2	9/6/10- 9/12/10	Critical Thinking Basics: Language of Arguments, The 8 Elements of Reason	TX: Chapter 1 (p.1-40)	DUE: Discussion #1 and Quiz #1 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
3	9/13/10- 9/19/10	Two Kinds of Reasoning & Clear Thinking and Writing	TX: Chapter 2 (p.41-68) and Chapter 3 (p. 69-104)	DUE: Discussion #2 and Homework #1 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
4	9/20/10- 9/26/10	More on Clear Writing Credibility – <i>Words, Images</i> ; Intellectual Standards	TX: Chapter 4 (p.105-146);	DUE: Discussion #3 and Quiz #2 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
5	9/27/10- 10/3/10	Persuasion through Rhetoric -- <i>Case Studies</i>	TX: Chapter 5 (p. 147-182)	DUE: Discussion #4 and Homework #2 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
6	10/4/10- 10/10/10	Psychological and Related Fallacies	TX: Chapter 6 (p. 183-210)	DUE: Discussion #5 and Quiz #3 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
7	10/11/10 - 10/17/10	More Fallacies	TX: Chapter 7 (p. 211-253)	DUE: Discussion #6 and Homework #3 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
8	10/18/10 - 10/24/10	Catch-UP, REVIEW – MID-TERM EXAM	<i>There will be an online REVIEW CHAT during the first part of this week.</i>	First Day to take Mid-Term Exam is Wednesday October 20, 2010
9	10/25/10 - 10/31/10	MID-TERM EXAM		Last Day to Take Mid-Term Exam is Thursday October 28, 2010.
10	11/1/10- 11/7/10	Deductive Arguments I: Categorical Logic	TX: Chapter 8 (p.254-296)	DUE: Discussion #7 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
11	11/8/10- 11/14/10	Deductive Arguments II: Truth-Functional Logic	TX: Chapter 9 (p.297-345)	DUE: Discussion #8 and Homework #4 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
12	11/15/10 - 11/21/10	Inductive Arguments	TX: Chapter 10 (p.346-384)	DUE: Discussion #9 and Quiz #4 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
13	11/22/10 - 11/28/10	Causal Arguments	TX: Chapter 11 (p.370-418)	THANKSGIVING Weekend – Nothing DUE

14	11/29/10 -12/5/10	Moral, Legal & Aesthetic Reasoning; Elements & Standards Revisited	TX: Chapter 12 (p.419-454)	DUE: Discussion #10, Homework #5 and Quiz #5 by SUNDAY at 11:59.
15	12/6/10- 12/12/10	Review & Reflection	<i>There will be an online REVIEW CHAT during the first part of this week.</i>	DUE: Post-Critical Thinking Test & Final Critical Thinking Self-Assessment Project <i>Last Day to withdraw from the class is December 10th.</i>
16	12/11/09 – 12/16/09	FINAL EXAM before Wednesday December 15th		<i>Final Exam MUST be TAKEN no later than December 15, 2010.</i>

VI) ASSIGNMENTS FOR INSTRUCTOR – My Commitment to you:

- I will prepare class lectures, handouts, information on homework assignments, and post relevant information for you in WebCampus.
- I will facilitate class discussions and learning activities, following the rules of civil discourse and respect.
- I will answer e-mail and questions posted on the “Ask a Question” discussion forum on WebCampus within 36-48 hours.
- **I will grade discussion posts, quizzes and homework assignments promptly. (Exception: Student work turned in late may not be returned promptly.)**
- I will make myself available for your class related questions and concerns during office hours and by appointment, as needed.
- If I give extra-credit work, I will give the same opportunity to all students.
- I will assign final grades to each student using the following criteria:

VII) GRADES:

The final grade will be determined by the course requirements:

- **Preparation & Participation** **50 points**
- **Discussions, Homework & Project** **300 points**
- **Pre- and Post-CT Assessments & Quizzes** **125 points**
- **EXAMS (Mid-Term & Final)** **125 points**
- 600 points**

Points Earned	Grade Received
558 - 600 points	A
540 - 557 points	A-
522 – 539 points	B+
498 – 521 points	B
480 - 497 points	B-
462 – 479 points	C+
438 – 461 points	C
420 – 437 points	C-
402 – 419 points	D+
360 – 401 points	D
Below 360 points	F

NOTE: If you wish to withdraw from the course, rather than receive the grade that you have earned, it is your responsibility to withdraw. If you are below 360 points after the Final Exam, you will have earned an “F”. If you run into problems, ask for help (445-3318). December 10TH is the last day to drop a full-term class with a “W.”

VIII) **FINAL NOTES:**

- A) **CAVEAT FROM INSTRUCTOR ON COURSE CONTENT:** As the course progresses there may be a need to modify topics, offer additional readings and handouts, assign different assignments, and/or change the calendar of assignments to meet course objectives. I will make announcements in writing on the WebCampus. NOTE: I may decide to give extra-credit, but I may not. It would be to your advantage to write **all the writing assignments.**
- B) **DISABILITY STATEMENT:** WNC supports providing equal access for students with disabilities. Susan Trist (DSS Coordinator) is available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that students may require. Please contact Susan Trist (445-3275) at your earliest convenience.
- C) **REVIEW OF CLASSROOM POLICIES**
- **RESPECT:** This says it all about my expectations of online classroom behavior. See WNC’s “Principles of Community” (p.3, 2010-2011 Catalog) for more details. Also make sure to read WNC’s “Student Code of Conduct” to know your rights and responsibilities. This is especially important for online discussions and class communication.
 - **LATE WORK: You will lose 5 points** if you turn in Homework Assignments late. **NO writing assignments will be accepted more than 2 weeks after the due date.** NOTE: Please talk to me if you have questions or concerns.
 - **MAKE-UP QUIZZES & EXAMS:** There **are no make-up quizzes or exams.** I drop the 2 lowest quiz grades. Please contact the instructor with questions or concerns related to this policy.
 - **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Honesty is the best policy. Learn to avoid plagiarism in writing assignments. Cheating on quizzes/tests or writing assignments will be considered an automatic F (=0) for that assignment. Repeated instances of plagiarism and/or cheating on a major exam may result in failing the course.
- D) **YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP:** Don’t forget that IF you have any questions on any aspect of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may always send me an email spriest@wnc.edu OR call me at 445-3318.