

## PHIL 160-05: CRITICAL THINKING

TR 11:40am-1:20pm KH D4047

Lecturer: Nathaniel Greely

E-mail: Nathaniel.Greely2@calstatela.edu

Office Hours (in E&T A422): Tuesday 2-3:30pm, Wednesday 3:30-5pm

---

The aim of this course is, obviously, to teach you to think critically. We will do this by learning how to construct and analyze different types of arguments. The topics discussed will include deductive, inductive, and abductive arguments, formal and informal fallacies, truth, and critical writing.

This course satisfies the Critical Thinking requirement, as well as course requirements for the Philosophy major.

**Text** Texts will be posted for free on the Moodle.

### **Grades**

The assignments for the course are listed below. The percentage following each assignment indicates the percentage of your overall course grade determined by the particular assignment.

First Quiz (30%): Tentatively scheduled for Oct 30.

Second Quiz (30%): Tentatively scheduled for Nov 20.

Critical Essay (30%): Due Dec. 9

Class Participation (10%): Students who show up to class and participate will see this reflected positively in their grade. Those who are absent, either mentally or physically, will lose points.

### **Late Work**

Late work will be accepted only if you arrange for it in advance, or if you present a documented excuse (like a doctor's note) for a genuine emergency. Otherwise, no make-up quizzes or exam will be given.

### **Course Topics**

The following is the tentative course schedule. Slight adjustments may be necessary due to the needs of the class.

**Sep. 25** – Course introduction

**Sep. 30** – Arguments, their Parts, and How to Map them

**Oct. 2** – Evaluating Deductive Arguments: Validity, and Soundness

**Oct. 7** – Syntax and Semantics, Ambiguity

**Oct. 9** – Symbolizing Arguments, Necessary and Sufficient Conditions

**Oct. 14** – Rules of Inference for Deductive Arguments: Reading – Carroll, “What the Tortoise Said to Achilles”

**Oct. 16** – Deductive Fallacies

**Oct. 21** – Derivations in Deductive Logic

**Oct. 23** – Truth

**Oct. 28** – Reductio Ad Absurdum: Reading – Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

**Oct. 30** – First Quiz

**Nov. 4** – Inductive Arguments, Strength, and Cogency

**Nov. 6** – Arguments by Analogy – Reading - Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”

**Nov. 11** – Holiday – Veteran’s Day

**Nov. 13** – Abduction

**Nov. 18** – Informal Fallacies: Reading - Kaye, “Informal Fallacies” pp. 104-110

**Nov. 20** – Review

**Nov. 25** – Second Quiz

**Dec. 2** – Writing a Critical Essay

**Dec. 4** – Writing Workshop

**Dec. 9** – **Final Essay Due**

**Essays should be emailed in MS Word format.**

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

You must do your own work for the class. If you cheat on any assignment, you will receive a zero on that assignment. For more information you can see the section on plagiarism on the CSULA website: <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/senate/handbook/appf.htm>.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The University provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. Faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and needs and requests accommodation. OSD may be contacted to verify the presence of a disability and to confirm that accommodation is necessary. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in Student Affairs Room 115 coordinates all documentation of disabilities. (323-343-3140) <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/osd/>