

Philosophy 106 Critical Thinking

IVC Spring 2013

Instructor: **Edwards**

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Office Hours: M & W 8:00-8:30 AM; Tue & Thu 12:00-1:00

Course Description and Introduction:

Critical Thinking is a course created to help students develop their skills in reasoning, analysis and the use of logical argument. We will focus on skills for identifying claims, premises and conclusions and touch on topics such as truth, reasons, validity, soundness, and fallacies. We will also examine ways in which logic can improve essay and paper writing. All of these skills can be applied to other fields of study such as business, science, law, social science, ethics and the arts.

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Textbooks:

(M&P) Moore and Parker, Critical Thinking 10th edition (Required) Books are available at the IVC Bookstore.

Course Requirements:

Final Grades will be determined by three exams, regular homework assignments, a short paper, participation in class and quizzes, as below:

Short Papers 15%	In-Class Exams: 30%	Final Exam: 20%	Writing Project: 10%	Attendance and Participation: 15%	Quizzes: 10%	
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F. In some cases we will go over homework in class, but if time is running short you will be responsible for correcting your own work.

There will be four exams throughout the semester, three smaller exams and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly.

In addition to the homework and exams, there will be 4 pop quizzes. There will also be a short paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should attend class meetings on a regular basis. Also, you can participate by raising interesting questions and comments in class.

Plagiarism:

We'll talk about plagiarism on the first day of class so that everyone will know what exactly it is. Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

Attendance:

You may be absent from two classes with no consequences. If you miss more than two classes, then you must bring valid documentation (doctor's note, jury duty notice, receipt from mechanic etc.) to the next class meeting or you will be dropped from the course. While you are in class you will be expected to turn cell phones off and not use them in any capacity. If you are late to class you are free to come in and join the class but you will be marked absent.

Disability Statement:

Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Assignment
Jan. 14	Introduction, Syllabus, Plagiarism	Read M&P, ch1.
Jan.16	What is Critical Thinking?	
Jan. 23	Two kinds of reasoning	Read M&P, ch2.
Jan. 28	Group Work ch. 2	
Jan. 30	Clear Thinking & Writing	Read M&P, ch3. pg. 69-86
Feb. 4	Group Work on definitions	
Feb. 6	Ch.3 (written assignment topic)	Read M&P, ch3. pg. 87-93
Feb. 11	Credibility	Read M&P, ch4
Feb. 13	Persuasion	Read M&P, ch5.
Feb. 20	Group Work ch. 5 (written assignment #1 due)	
Feb. 25	Exam #1	
Feb.27	Fallacies	Read M&P, ch 6.
Mar. 4	More Fallacies	Read M&P, ch. 7.
Mar. 6	Group Work on Fallacies.	Written Assignment topic
Mar. 11	Thank you for Smoking Movie	
Mar. 13	Review for Test #2	(written assignment #2 is due)
Mar. 18	Exam #2	
Mar. 20	Formal Logic	Read M&P, ch9.
Mar. 25	OFF	
Mar. 27	OFF	
Apr. 8	Truth Tables	Ch.9
Apr. 10	Exam #3	(writing project),
Apr. 15	Ethics	(writing project), Ch. 9.
Apr.17	Relativism	Read M&P, 436-449.
Apr. 22	Utilitarianism	Read, M&P, ch9. 456-467
Apr. 24	Deontology	Read, M&P, ch9. 456-467
Apr. 29	Legal Reasoning	
May 1	Group Work on Legal Reasoning.	Writing Project is Due
May 6	Final 8:35	

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Tool (e.g., exam, rubric, portfolio)	Institutional Outcome* (e.g., ISLO1, ISLO2)
Example: Distinguish the four types of arguments. Locate fallacious reasoning.	Final	ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

***Institutional Student Learning Outcomes:** ISLO1 = communication skills; ISLO2 = critical thinking skills; ISLO3 = personal responsibility; ISLO4 = information literacy; ISLO5 = global awareness

