Critical Thinking
PHIL 11104 6X

Instructor: Ms. A.J. Favia
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:
A study of the role of evidence and inference. Special emphasis is given to developing skills in reasoning and the appraisal of arguments. Arguments in the sciences, social sciences, law, and politics will be considered.

Course Objectives:
Critical thinking is a practical skill that provides you with the tools to reflect more clearly on social issues, legal arguments, political debates, advertising, and a variety of other issues found in the media. This course is intended to help you develop effective reasoning skills through an introduction to composition, informal logic, and philosophy. You will learn to evaluate critically what you read, see, and hear by developing the ability to analyze evidence and arguments presented to you. Good critical thinking skills will allow you to define issues, ask pertinent questions, challenge assumptions and logically assess others (as well as your own) opinions and arguments.

Required Books:
Photocopies of other readings will be provided for you.

Assessment:
Class Participation: 10%
Assignments: 30% (10 assignments, 3% each)
Quizzes: 20% (4 quizzes, 5% each)
Essays: 15% (3 essays, 5% each)
Final Exam: 25%
Course Requirements:

Class Participation: Class participation will be calculated based on attendance and participation in class discussions.

Assignments: Ten (10) take-home assignments consisting mostly of questions from the book. All assignments must be handed in on the date they are due. NO LATE assignments will be accepted.

Argumentative Essays: Three (3) short essay assignments based on reading assignments and articles that will be handed out in class. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, with font size #12. NO LATE essays will be accepted.

Quizzes: Four (4) short quizzes based on readings and homework assignments. NO MAKE-UP Quizzes

Final Exam: One (1) final cumulative exam. NO MAKE-UP Exams.

Further details regarding all assignments, quizzes, essays and exams will be provided in class.

Attendance and Lateness Policy: Your presence in class is vital to your education. Being in class is not just about listening to a lecture. Class time provides you with an opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussions that help you learn the material.

From the CCNY Bulletin:

♦ Students are expected to attend every class of each course in which they are enrolled and to be on time.

♦ Students will be dropped from the course for excessive absences (No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences.)

♦ Missing more than two class sessions constitutes excessive absence, and results in an automatic WU. It is the College policy that the number of hours absent may not exceed twice the number of contact hours the course meets per week.

♦ Students who miss more than two classes before the official drop date have the option to withdraw without academic penalty and should do so. They will have a W placed on their academic record. When a student is dropped for excessive absence, the registrar or instructor will enter the grade of WU. A student may appeal this action to the committee on Course and Standing in the school in which the course is offered. A WU counts as an F grade in the calculation of the GPA.
At CWE, the faculty have determined that lateness will result in being marked absent. If a student is more than 20 minutes late to class, they will be counted as absent for 1/3 of the class. If a student misses 20 minutes in the middle of class due to being late from a break or other reasons they will be counted as absent for 1/3 of a class session. And, if a student leaves class 10 or more minutes early, they will be counted absent for 1/3 of a class session. Missing a total of an hour of class will also result in a full absence. Partial absences are cumulative and will be added together to determine the total number of class absences. For example, one absence from a class session and four late arrivals in class would constitute 2 1/3 absences and would result in an automatic WU grade.

**Academic Integrity:** As stated in the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity:

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas research or writings as your own." The following are some examples of plagiarism:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source;
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source;
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source;
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.

A student who plagiarizes may incur academic and disciplinary penalties, including failing grades, suspensions, and expulsion.

A complete copy of the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity may be downloaded [here](http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/content/2004/policies/image/policy.pdf)

**Cell Phones:**

Turn OFF all cell phones etc. before class begins. Students who do not abide by this may be asked to leave the class and consequently counted as absent from class.

**Contact Information:**

I can be contacted via email at [afavia@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:afavia@gc.cuny.edu). If you do not receive an acknowledgment response from me within a day of your email then I have not received your email.
Class Schedule
(subject to revision)

Week 1:  Introduction: What is Critical Thinking?

Week 2:  Critical Thinking Basics: Deductive and Inductive Arguments
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 3:  Critical Thinking Basics (continued): Recognizing Arguments,
Arguments versus Explanation
Assignment #1 Due: Select Chapter 1 Exercises

Week 4:  The Anatomy and Variety of Arguments
Reading: Chapter 7
Assignment #2 Due: Handout on Arguments & Explanations

Week 5:  Persuasion through Rhetoric
Quiz: Deductive & Inductive, Arguments & Explanations
Reading: Chapter 4
Assignment #3 Due: Select Chapter 7 Exercises

Week 6:  More Rhetorical Devices & Fallacies
Reading: Chapter 5, Current Event Handout
Assignment #4 Due: Select Chapter 4 Exercises

Week 7:  More Fallacies
Reading: Chapter 6, Current Event Handout
Assignment #5 Due: Select Chapter 5 Exercises

Week 8:  Writing Argumentative Essays & Credibility
Quiz: Fallacies
Reading: Chapter 2 & Chapter 3
Assignment #6 Due: Select Chapter 6 Exercises

Week 9:  Deductive Arguments I: Categorical Logic
Reading: Chapter 8
Assignment Due: Argumentative Essay #1

Week 10:  Deductive Arguments I: Categorical Logic (continued)
Assignment #7 Due: Select Chapter 8 Exercises

Week 11:  Deductive Arguments II: Truth Functional Logic
Quiz: Categorical Logic
Reading: Chapter 9
Assignment #8 Due: Handout on Categorical Syllogisms
Week 12:  Spring Recess - No Class

Week 13:  Spring Recess - No Class

Week 14:  Deductive Arguments II: Truth Functional Logic (continued)
          Assignment #9 Due: Select Chapter 9 Exercises &
          Argumentative Essay #2

Week 15:  Inductive Arguments
          Quiz: Truth Functional Logic
          Read: Chapter 10
          Assignment #10 Due: Handout on Truth Tables

Week 16:  Review for Final Exam
          Assignment Due: Argumentative Essay #3

Final Exam: TBA