Institution: CSU, Sacramento

Course: Philosophy 4- Critical Thinking # 30604 Section 3



Semester: Spring 2017 Email: christian.bauer@csus.edu

Days/Time: Mondays 6-850pm Location: DH 208

Instructor: Chris Bauer General Education: Area A3

Student office hour: MND 3032 Tuesdays 130-230pm

How to correspond with a professor: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20correspond%20with%20your%20professor.html>

Availability:  Every effort is made to communicate with you quickly, effectively, and accurately. I take this as an important element of my responsibility to you. However, after 5pm M-F or on the weekends, my response may be delayed. If the concern regards a time sensitive matter, please check frequently for a response from me with a solution, as often the best solution is one, which can be implemented quickly.

Special Note:  This faculty member is considered a ‘mandated reporter’for suspected child abuse or neglect under the *California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act* and is bound by the requirements set forth in *CSU Executive Order 1083 (available here[http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1083.html](https://webmail.saclink.csus.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=XEavJSkj37n1GC3z_WJdv3ORvOkXRUy7XsoOfCCfIGbNxVGWmb_TCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.calstate.edu%2feo%2fEO-1083.html" \t "_blank))*.

Course Description: Study of the basic skills of good reasoning needed for the intelligent and responsible conduct of life. Topics include: argument structure and identification, validity and strength of arguments, common fallacies of reasoning, use and abuse of language in reasoning, principles of fair play in argumentation. (From catalog of courses <http://catalog.csus.edu/courses/2012-14/phil/>)

Prerequisites: none

Learning Objectives: Through assignments like exams, in class work, and quizzes students will study about and consciously develop skills in critical thinking.

1. Describe, explain and distinguish key concepts in critical thinking. 2. Identify an argument in a passage of ordinary text, including identifying the premises and conclusions and distinguishing them from extraneous information. 3. Identify errors of reasoning and explain what the error in reasoning is. 4. Engage with peers in cogent and respectful discussion. 5. Analyze specific arguments for consistency and credibility. 6. Apply good reasoning to issues and problems in professional and personal contexts. 7. Evaluate evidence and draw inferences from that evidence. 8. Determine what evidence is necessary to support a conclusion and identify and apply key strategies to find that evidence. 9. Construct and defend arguments in support of or in opposition to particular propositions. 10. Analyze and solve complicated strategic challenges in various areas of life.

- Student Learning Objectives for Area A3 courses include:

**Area A-1 Oral Communication**

**Area A-3  Critical Thinking**

1. Students study about and consciously develop skills in critical thinking.
2. Knowledge through logical analysis and argument construction is pursued throughout the course.
3. Instruction develops understanding of logical relationships between premises and conclusions.
4. Instruction develops ability to recognize more common formal and informal fallacies.
5. Grading reflects emphasis on logical processes.
6. Develops basic skills, applicable to a variety of academic subjects and to the fulfillment of such roles as citizen, consumer, leader and moral agent.
   1. Skill in evaluating the validity, strength and relevance of arguments.
   2. A sense of logical structure of both inductive and deductive forms.
   3. Awareness of uses and abuses of argument language, including connotation, ambiguity and definition.
   4. Skill in handling a variety of arguments in variety of contexts.
   5. Ability to argue fairly and to handle bias, emotion, and propaganda.

**Students will:**

1. Locate the argument in a passage
2. Detect errors of reasoning and explain how the reasoning is in error.
3. Evaluate evidence and make appropriate inferences from that evidence.
4. Construct and defend an argument in support of or in opposition to a proposition

Academic Honesty: Link to college policy and procedures for academic dishonesty (e.g. Plagiarism) and student/faculty rights and responsibilities.

<http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If caught, student(s) will receive a zero on the associated assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior notification of absence.

In-Class Participation: Purposely “obstructing” the viewpoint of another student in the classroom during classroom discussions is prohibited. This class will involve many discussions concerning sensitive material. This being a philosophy course, many of these discussions may challenge certain beliefs that you hold. Open dialog and proper respect for differing opinions are not only expected but also required for this class. Debate and discussion is acceptable.

Attendance: Required. Roll will be taken during each class meeting. Classroom attendance is generally necessary for academic success; therefore, regular attendance at class is expected. Contact your instructor if you will be absent. Assignments occur every class meeting.

Adding/Dropping: To add the course, try to do so by using CMS. To drop the course during the first two weeks, use the CMS system. No paperwork is required. This course is open and no consent is required. You may add as long as there is a spot open. Here is a link for the add petition. <http://www.csus.edu/registrar/forms/UpdateRecord/petitiontoadddropwithdraw.pdf> As with any university course, make sure you are dropped officially (by CMS or the instructor or the department secretary); or else you may get a "WU" grade for the course, which is counted as an "F" by the Registrar in computing your GPA.

Accommodations for disabilities:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6955 by the end of the second week of class. Make sure to provide your instructor with the proper form. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours by the end of the second week of the semester.

Text: Required: *Logical Reasoning* by Professor Bradley Dowden CSUS

A link of the text can be found here:

<http://www.csus.edu/indiv/d/dowdenb/4/logical-reasoning.pdf>

Course Assessment: 1 Paper (20% total), 10 In-Class HW Assignments (20% total), 4 Exams (40% total), 10 Quizzes (20% total)

Paper: You will select from one of the topics available from a list provided in class. We will have a specific day for choosing the topic and selecting an argumentative approach in defense of your thesis. This paper will be a research assignment and your thesis will be argumentative. Tips for writing papers can be found here: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/WritingGuidelines.html>

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm> Minimum length of paper: 4 pages. Grading based on content, accuracy, and relevance of argument. A grading rubric will be put on SacCT.

Unit HW: Each unit we cover will have an in-class HW assignment attached to it. HW can be done in pairs to encourage discussion and debate. These assignments will be done in class on the date listed in the tentative schedule. A certain number of questions will be given, and each student/pair will be assessed by whether they accurately completed the question.

Exams: They occur once we have reached a logical break in the content. Each exam is worth 10% of your final grade. There will be a certain number of questions to answer (varies with each exam) and point values will be assigned to each question. The points earned will be divided by the total possible points to create a percentage. Exam 1 covers units 1-3, Exam 2 covers units 4-5, Exam 3 covers units 6-7, and the Final Exam Ch. 8-10. Exams will consist of similar problems as classroom HW. Exams are not cumulative, however you may need to remember earlier concepts and principles in later chapters. We will have pre-tests prior to each exam, so you can see what the actual exam will constitute.

Quizzes: Each unit will have a corresponding quiz to evaluate understanding of that unit. Quizzes, like HW will be in-class after we’ve completed the unit. Unlike the in class HW, quizzes will not be done with partners. Questions will be similar to questions done in class. Assessment will be based off whether one answers the questions correctly or incorrectly.

Grade formula: 100-94% = A, 93-90%= A-, 89-87%= B+, 86-84%= B, 83-80%= B-, 79-77%= C+, 76-74%= C, 73-70%= C-, 69-67%=D+, 66-64%=D, 63-60%=D-, 59% or below = F

No extra credit will be offered or accepted. Late assignments only accepted with excused absence.

Semester Outline:

1/23: Instruction begins, 2/17 census date, 3/20 week of spring break, 5/20 Semester ends

**Tentative Schedule:**

1/23- Introduction to course/ Unit 1 Claims & Arguments

1/30- Unit 1 in-class HW / Unit 1 Quiz / Unit 2 Deductive Arguments & Forms

2/6- Unit 2 in-class HW / Unit 2 Quiz / Unit 3 Obstacles & Doubt

2/13- Unit 3 in-class HW / Unit 3 Quiz / Preview Exam 1

2/20- Unit 4 propositional & symbolic logic / Exam 1

2/27- Unit 4 in-class HW / Unit 4 Quiz / Unit 5 Categorical logic

3/6- Unit 5 in-class HW / Unit 5 Quiz / Preview Exam 2

3/13- Paper sign up / Exam 2

3/20- Spring Break

3/27- Unit 6 Fallacies

4/3- Unit 6 in-class HW / Unit 6 Quiz / Unit 7 Precision

4/10- Unit 7 in-class HW / Unit 7 Quiz / Exam 3 Preview

4/17- Unit 8 Inductive Arguments / Exam 3

4/24- Unit 8 in-class HW / Unit 8 Quiz / Unit 9 Explanations

5/1- Unit 9 in-class HW / Unit 9 Quiz / Unit 10 Scientific Theories

5/8- Unit 10 in-class HW / Unit 10 Quiz / Preview Final exam

5/15- Final Exam 5:15-7:15pm / Paper Due