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Office Phone: 654-6829

Office Location: FT 104F  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9-11am and Thursdays 12-2 pm

Course Description
This course is designed to help you develop critical thinking skills related to the recognition, analysis and evaluation of arguments. These include the identification and evaluation of deductive and inductive reasoning; an understanding of justification and evidence; and analysis of fallacious arguments in various areas of inquiry. GE A3.

Course Learning Outcomes
1. Students will learn how to distinguish argumentative discourse from other kinds of discourse (e.g. explanation, description, assertion). (A3 G1O1, Chapter 2)
2. Students will learn how to identify the conclusion and premises of an argument. (A3 G2O1 and G2O2, Chapter 3)
3. Students will learn how to describe the structure of an argument. (A3 G2O3, Chapter 4)
4. Students will learn how to distinguish deductive and inductive reasoning and to use the appropriate criteria for evaluating an argument. (A3 G3O1 and G2O2, Chapter 5)
5. Students will learn how to evaluate the validity of deductive arguments. (A3 G3O3, Chapter 7)
6. Students will learn how to evaluate the strength of inductive arguments. (A3 G3O4, Chapter 9)
7. Students will learn how to recognize common informal fallacies. (A3 G3O5, Chapter 11)
8. Students will learn how to provide reasons that support a conclusion. (A3 G4O1, Chapter 12)

Required Text

Graded Assignments

Chapter Tests (10 points each)
To proceed to through the course content, you must demonstrate proficiency of the skills learned in each chapter by passing an in-class exam with a grade of C or better. These exams cover Chapters 2-5, 7, 9, and 11. There will be nine opportunities to pass these seven chapter exams. Exams will be given every Monday and may be retaken for credit.
Argumentative Essay (10 points)
Once you have demonstrated proficiency of the skills taught in Chapters 2-5, 7, 9, and 11, you will be ready to construct arguments of your own in the form of an argumentative essay. Details about the argumentative essay assignment will be discussed in class.

Final Grades
Completion of this course with a C or better satisfies the general education requirement for Area A3. Final course grades will be assigned along the following scale:

- 80-74pts = A
- 71-70pts = B+
- 63-62pts = C+
- 55-54pts = D+
- 73-72pts = A-
- 69-66pts = B
- 61-58pts = C
- 53-50pts = D
- 65-64pts = B-
- 57-56pts = C-
- 49-48pts = D-

Accessibility
This course aims to support a wide range of learning styles and abilities. To that end, I have completed training and applied principles of Universal Design for Learning to this course. Feel free to discuss your progress in this course with me at any time. In addition, if you require any accommodations in this course or have questions about access, please let me know as soon as possible. For additional assistance, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 654-3360.

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty (cheating) is a broad category of actions that involve fraud and deception to improve a grade or obtain course credit. This category includes plagiarism, the use of cribs, and copying during examinations. Faculty members are required to report academic dishonesty to the Dean of Student Life and the Student Conduct Coordinator, in addition to imposing a course grade of “F” or other grade penalty.

Class Cancellations
In the unlikely event that class is cancelled, you will be notified of such cancellation in one or more of the following ways: (1) through an announcement in class prior to the cancellation, (2) through an announcement on Blackboard, and/or (3) through an official notice posted on the classroom door the day of the cancellation. Be aware that any cancellation notice posted on the classroom door that is not on official departmental letterhead and signed by the department chair should be regarded as a hoax. Any fake cancellation notice will not excuse you from the day’s class work.

Etiquette
CSUB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to be good citizens and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their university, to be civil to one another and to others in the campus community, and contribute positively to student and university life. This applies both to classroom behavior and online communication.
Tutoring
The A&H Tutoring Center (located in DDH B115 and B117) offers free tutoring for PHIL 102. Please check the website for hours:
http://www.csub.edu/admissionsandaid/student_support_programs/tutoring/

Tips for Success
1. **Prepare for each class meeting.** Read the chapter and complete at least some of the exercises before coming to class. Check your answers to in the back of the textbook. Write down any questions you have about the reading, and identify which exercises are giving you the most difficulty.
2. **Actively participate in class.** Attempt to answer questions even if you are not sure whether you know the correct answer. Ask questions when you are confused. Turn off your cell phone and social media applications.
3. **Don’t hide from your mistakes.** Retry exercises that you get wrong to see if you learned from your mistakes. If there is a skill that is giving you on-going trouble, ask for additional practice exercises.
4. **Seek help.** Take advantage of the instructor's office hours, and the free tutoring available at the A&H Tutoring Center.
5. **Focus on learning the skills.** Yes, you need a C to pass; but do not waste your time stressing about your grade. Instead, focus on learning the skills you need to become a critical thinker!

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