Syllabus Phil 04, Critical Thinking, Fall 2015

Instructor: Anthony Hanson (anthanson@live.com)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To teach the various skills that collectively encompass critical thinking. These include:

- Understanding and overcoming cognitive barriers and biases.

- The analysis of language and rhetoric and non-argumentative forms of persuasion and propaganda.

- Distinguishing credible sources from non-credible sources.

- The logical analysis of arguments and claims.

- Identification of fallacious reasoning.

- Moral principles as they operate in practical reasoning.

- Constructing well supported arguments in writing.

ONLINE TEXTS

You do not have to buy any books for this class. All the material is online. Links will be provided in the lesson plans. For the first few weeks we will be using the first chapter of Patrick J. Hurley's, *A Concise Introduction to Logic.* **It is provided free here:**

http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/content/hurley03835_0495503835_02.01_chapter01.pdf

Another site we will be using is the *Critical Thinking Web* at the University of Hong Kong:

http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/

When we study fallacies, we will be relying heavily on Gary Curtis's *Fallacy Files*:

http://www.fallacyfiles.org/whatarff.html

OPTIONAL TEXT

Patrick J. Hurley's, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 9th or 10th editions, paperback or hardcover or etext. The publisher of the 10th edition of this book is Cengage You may get the 9th or 10th edition

online. You can also buy individual chapters. The chapters that might be useful are ch 1 (provided free), and chs 2 & 3. To buy the chapters individually go here.
http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9780840034175

GRADING

1. Mid- term Exam 50 (Language and Arguments) Bring Scantron

2. Final Exam. 50 (Fallacies) Bring Scantron

3. 6 quizzes. 50 (10 points each but lowest score thrown out)

4. Homework/Writing Assignments. 50
   - Logic Coach Ch 1 (Hurley), 15
   -Logic Coach Ch 3 (Hurley) 15
   - Other class/homework Assignments 20

There will be a mid-term and a final exam exam each worth 50 points. The exams consist of true-false, multiple choice type questions, and may also include written responses. You cannot make up quizzes. The quizzes are pop quizzes, so they can be given at any time. You get one freebie in the sense that if you miss a quiz, then the zero score will be thrown out. The mid-term can be made up only if you have authoritative verifiable documents from an unbiased third party that shows you had a medical emergency. If you miss the final exam, then you can take an incomplete if you have a verifiable emergency.

Here is the grade scale. Please notice that you only need 68% for a C, 78% for a B and 88% for an A. Since the grade scale is already generous, there is no so called "extra credit" in this course.

A = 187 - 200

A- = 176 - 186

B+ = 168 - 175

B = 162 -167

B- = 156 - 161

C = 136 - 155

D+ 129 - 135

D 123- 128

D- 116 - 122

F = 115 and below

EXPECTATIONS REGARDING STUDENT CONDUCT

Attendance will be taken regularly. If you miss more than 6 hours, you may be dropped unless you have at least a C average. If you choose to withdraw at any time please be aware of the withdrawal deadlines in your course catalog. It is your responsibility to do the paper work (online now) to drop the class, if you choose to withdraw. Don't just assume I have dropped you. If you have obligations that often prevent you from regularly attending class, then you should probably take the class at another time. Be prepared to sit in class for the duration, without leaving except during breaks. If you are late, it is your responsibility to see me after class the same day so that I can change the roster from an absence to a tardy. If you do not, the record will remain as an absence. If you leave class early you will be marked absent, unless you tell me before class begins. Things such as leaving telephones on, talking in class during lecture, failing to participate in team work, and sleeping, are impolite and disrespectful. On the other hand, helping your fellow students out when they may need it, positively participating in classroom discussions, and generally having a good attitude toward learning is encouraged. Excessive absences, tardies and etiquette considerations can affect your grade insofar as I will be less likely to give you the benefit of the doubt in borderline grading circumstances. Since many students at the end of class often fall on a grading borderline of 1 or 2 percent below a higher grade, it is very much to your interest to responsibly attend class.

Any student who violates the academic code (e.g., by cheating or plagiarism) will, at minimum, receive a final course grade of F. This rule is rigidly enforced.

HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK

The homework consists of text exercises and smaller writing assignments or short class presentations.

I. Logic Coach 10 (30 points)

Most of the exercises will be done in Logic Coach 10, a software program. You can download the program here:

http://www.cengage.com/resource_uploads/static_resources/0495503835/19000/logic_coach_10.html

Please print (on paper) the summary table for each exercise set. The summary table indicates for each problem whether or not you have completed the problem and gives you a grade. On each sheet, please make sure your Logic Coach user id/name is visible in the header.

How will homework be graded? If you complete with a passing grade all the **logic coach exercises** assigned you will be given the full points for each of the two Chapters – 15 points each. Here are the specific assignments:

Chapter 1

1.1 Part I 1-10, 1.2 all, 1.3 all, 1.4 all, 1.5 all, 1.6 Part I (all)

Chapter 3

3.1 all, 3.2 all, 3.3 Parts I and III all, 3.4 Parts I and II all, 3.5 1-30

II. Other Home/Class Work (20 points)

Other assignments will be given throughout the quarter that help reinforce the skills you will be learning in the class. You will submit these assignments to turnitin.com on deadlines stated in the Lesson Plans.

The turnitin class ID number is 10747195

The class password is: plato

Watch the tutorial here: http://turnitin.com/en_us/training/student-training

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