

Syllabus: Phil 004
Critical Thinking
De Anza College
Summer Quarter, 2011
Instructor: Toño Ramirez
Email: ramireztono@fhda.edu
Office Location: Forum Building, Room 2D
Office Hours: T-TH 6:30-7:30 AM and 1-2 PM, or by appointment



Course Description

This course introduces and examines the role of formal and informal methods of reasoning in several forms of discourse. We will focus on the cultivation of argumentative skills relevant to academic, public, and interpersonal methods of communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully engage course materials will be able to:

- Identify and analyze a variety of rhetorical and argumentative techniques
- Analyze and assess a variety of rhetorical and argumentative texts
- Develop original complex arguments
- Apply these tools to real-world decision-making

Course Expectations and Requirements

Attendance:

- Students who are considering dropping the course for personal reasons are encouraged to meet with the instructor first—I'm happy to do what I can to help you succeed in this class!
- Students may miss a total of *two* class meetings without penalty during the term. A third absence will result in the loss of the "attendance buffer" (explained below) when final grades are calculated. A fifth absence will result in dismissal from the course.
- Students are *not* required to provide the instructor with a reason for absence, nor are apologies necessary. I assume that absences will only occur under legitimate circumstances.
- Students who miss a class meeting are responsible for obtaining any information or assignments they may have missed.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her name has been recorded accurately on daily attendance sheets.
- Students are expected to come to class *on time*. Three late arrivals will be considered equivalent to one absence on the attendance record.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class. Students who need to leave a phone on for emergency purposes should let me know at the beginning of the class session. No other electronic devices may be used during class without first consulting me.

Student Assessment:

The final grade will be awarded according to the following point system:

	With attendance buffer	Without attendance buffer
Quizzes	20%	20%
Homework Assignments	25%	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20%	25%
Final Exam	20%	25%
Attendance Buffer	15%	0%

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A+	96.5-100
A	92.5-96.4
A-	89.5-92.4
B+	86.5-89.4
B	82.5-86.4
B-	79.5-82.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	69.5-76.4
D+	56.5-59.4
D	52.5-56.4
D-	49.5-52.4
F	0-49.4

- Quizzes **may not** be made up.
- The mid-term and final exams **may not be made up**.
- Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final score total.
- Homework assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of their corresponding class meeting, unless otherwise directed.
- You may submit late homework up to one week past the due date for half credit. **I will not accept homework that is more than a week late.**
- Participation in discussions will be evaluated according to the *quality* of student comments, and not quantity. Students who demonstrate excellence in discussions will attend closely to the comments of other students, and offer remarks that are of relevance to the discussion at hand. It is expected that students will engage one another's ideas in discussion, and that this will be done in a respectful manner. Neither disparaging remarks nor personal attacks will be tolerated in any way.
- Class discussions will frequently feature small-group work. It is expected that students will participate actively in these groups.
- Academic honesty is imperative in all written work. Plagiarism, the use of unauthorized electronic devices during quizzes, and other violations will automatically result failing grade in the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Academics. Students who are unsure about standards for academic honesty should consult with me.

Course Assignment Schedule

(n.b.: The schedule is subject to change at my discretion—changes will be posted to the course website)

- 6/28: Introduction to course
- 6/29: Read pgs. 1-22
 - From book: **1-5**: 17, 18, 19; **1-6**: 5, 6, 9
 - From book: **1-7**: 5-8; **1-9**: 1-5
- 6/30: Read [Ackerman, "Whole Person Admissions"](#)
 - Chapter 1 Quiz
- 7/5: Read pgs. 69-75
 - From book: **3-1**; **3-3**: 3-5; **3-4**
- 7/6: Read pgs. 160-163
 - From book: **5-18**: 1-6; **5-20**: 1-5
 - book: **3-6**: 1-6-; **3-9**: 8-15
- 7/7: Chapter 3 Quiz
- 7/12: Read pgs. 147-168
 - From book: **5-3**; **5-10**: 1-8
- 7/13: Read pgs. 105-121
 - From book: **4-7**: 6-9; **4-9**: 1-5
- 7/14: Please read [this article](#) and bring a written response to the following question:
 - As discussed in the article, the word 'possible' has multiple meanings. When miracles are defined as "God doing something 'impossible'", what exactly does this mean?
 - In class review for midterm exam
- 7/19: **MIDTERM EXAM**
- 7/20: Read pgs. 41-47
 - From book: **2-1**: All; **2-4**: 2-7; **2-6**: 1-5
- 7/21: Read pgs. 48-59
 - From book: **2-10**: 1-5; **2-11**: 1-5
 - Complete [this assignment](#)
- 7/26: Chapter 2 Quiz
 - Read pgs. 183-199
 - Read pgs. 211-228
- 7/27: From book: **6-5**: All
 - Read pgs. 211-228
- 7/28: NO CLASS MEETING
- 8/2: From book: **7-2**: All
 - Chapter 6 & 7 Quiz
 - Please read [this article](#) and bring a written response to the following question:
 - According to the article, in order to faith to be morally acceptable, two important conditions must be met. What are these two conditions?
- 8/3: In class review for final exam
 - Please read [this article](#) and bring a written response to the following question:
 - According to Singer, exactly how much of my money/wealth am I supposed to give to relieve world poverty?
- 8/4: **FINAL EXAM**

Text (available at bookstore)

Moore, B.N. and Parker, R. Critical Thinking (9th ed.) McGraw Hill, 2009.

Please ensure that you are using the **9th** edition of this text. The book has been enrolled in the bookstore's textbook rental program in order to minimize student expense. If the bookstore is out of copies, I recommend searching online vendors such as www.amazon.com or www.half.com. Used copies of the text can be found at these sites for reasonable prices.

I have placed one copy of the text on reserve at the De Anza library

Additional course readings will be handed out in class, or made available via the course website.

Course Website

Electronic copies of course materials, announcements, and other course resources are available at

<http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/ramireztono/phil04>