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C&GE approved: October 14, 2021
Board approved: December 8, 2021
Semester effective:

Philosophy (PHIL) 1520 Critical Thinking (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Philosophy 9]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 or 1501 strongly recommended

Hours and Units Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course is designed to improve students' reasoning process. Instruction consists of creating argument maps, analyzing the validity of arguments, creating valid arguments, critiquing assumptions within arguments, distinguishing between induction and deduction, and in arriving at valid and supportable conclusions.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Morrow, David, and Anthony Weston. *A Workbook for Arguments: A Complete Course in Critical Thinking*. Third, Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2019.

Additional Instructional Materials: Computer access with CMAP software.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. define key critical thinking terms,
2. explain the purpose and applicability of critical thinking,
3. apply critical thinking methods to reach reasonable conclusions,
4. identify the presence and absence of reasoning,
5. identify flaws in reasoning,
6. propose viable solutions to vague reasoning,
7. judge the context of a claim and its evidence,
8. analyze arguments,
9. evaluate the acceptability of arguments,
10. construct argument maps from written texts,
11. construct argument maps from spoken arguments,
12. distinguish arguments from explanations,
13. identify assumptions of arguments,
14. identify and evaluate premises of arguments,
15. identify and evaluate conclusions of arguments,
16. judge the effectiveness of inferences in written arguments,
17. judge the credibility of sources (spoken, traditional media, and Internet),
18. evaluate the use of scientific data,

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Argument Creation

- A. Definitions and key terms of CT
- B. Important terms in argumentation
- C. Creation of arguments from evidence
- D. Conclusions, reasons, and premises
- E. Introduction to argumentation software (e.g. CMAP)
- F. Writing prose from argument maps

Unit II Argument Analysis

- A. Working with arguments
- B. Structuring arguments from prose

Argument Evaluation Logical Fallacies

- A. Identifying errors in reasoning
- B. Replying to erroneous reasoning

Metacognition Vocabulary of cognition Impediments to reasoning and critical thinking

- A. Overcoming impediments to critical thinking
- B. Identifying cognitive errors
- C. How to improve rational thinking through metacognition

Final Project: Applying Critical Thinking Gathering evidence

- A. Organizing evidence
- B. Reaching a conclusion
- C. Defending a conclusion

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per weeks outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. studying,
2. answering questions,
3. completing required reading,
4. completing argument mapping, and
5. completing written work.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lectures
2. Arguments mapping with CMAP software
3. Group work

Methods of Evaluation

1. Group presentations
2. Written assignments
- 3.
4. Argument mapping

Supplemental Data:

T.O.P. Code:	150900 Philosophy
Sam Priority Code:	E. Non- Occupational
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a Special Class
Basic Skills Status:	Not Applicable
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not Applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: is not a part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	No
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	Yes
Discipline:	Philosophy