

PHILOSOPHY 11: CRITICAL THINKING

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2016 Long Beach City College



LONG BEACH
CITY COLLEGE

This is a distance education course. All activities are to be completed over the internet.

February 8th to June 8th

Instructor: Michael Monge

Section Number 33127

email: mmonge@lbcc.edu

voicemail: (562) 938-4949 x6498

Course Access: <http://lms.lbcc.edu>

Course Textbooks: *Critical Thinking (CT)* by Marcelo Pimentel, *Logic For Beginners (LFB)* 2nd ed., by Michael J Monge



Course Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the components of arguments and types of arguments. Distinguish between examples of deductive and inductive arguments. Evaluate inductive arguments for strength, cogency, and/or presence of fallacies in speeches or text. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> understand and apply basic logical terminology. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> identify, analyze, and criticize general arguments. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recognize and identify fallacious reasoning, in both their own and others' arguments. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> put their criticisms of arguments in extended prose form. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> use their own judgment to evaluate the reasonableness of statements. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> analyze specific styles of arguments, including casual inferences, analogies, and generalizations. |
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Grading: This course is percentage based, and the percentage value for various activities can be found in the table to the right. Exams will test your mastery of the course material, and will be graded for accuracy and proficiency. Forum posts are required every week, and will be graded more on effort, completeness, and following directions.

Percent value for each exercise	
30%	Module Exams (3)
20%	Final Exam
20%	Forum posts/Exercises
15%	Argumentative Essay
15%	Practice Quizzes/Activities

Grade Scale	
90%-100%	A
80%-89.9%	B
70%-79.9%	C
60%-69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

Every week that there is no exam there will be some kind of practice quiz or other activity in addition to the forum posts. These quizzes or activities are intended to give you a sense of how well you understand the material before you take the exams. They will not necessarily contain questions exactly like the exams, but they will cover the same sort of material, and will help reveal gaps in your understanding which need to be addressed.

There will be one required argumentative essay. It will be submitted online, and all instructions can be found on the course website. I strongly urge you to get started on it as soon as you can.

The Final Exam will be due the last week of the semester, and will cover material from throughout the semester. All exams including the final exam may be curved to ensure an appropriate grade distribution.

There will be no make-ups or late assignments accepted, nor will there be any kind of extra credit. Your lowest mid-term exam score will be dropped.

Participation: Participation can be positive or negative. Positive participation includes posting questions to the online forums, answering such questions, and by being courteous and respectful in all communications. In addition, students who have a good deal of positive participation will be eligible for up to 1.5% bonus points on their overall grade. Negative participation, which includes inappropriate comments, disrespectful posting or emails, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Minor infractions will merit a warning, and possibly some further disciplinary action. Major infractions, or continued minor infractions, will result in disciplinary action.

Collaboration: I expect you to complete the exams on your own, but other than that I encourage you to work with other students as much as possible. Learning to think critically is very challenging for most students, and discussing ideas and issues with other students is a great way to get practice arguing and defending your views, which is what critical thinking is all about.

Drop Policy: It is your responsibility to drop this course. If you fail to drop yourself and stop participating, you may receive an “F” for the course. Although you may be dropped for inactivity, you should not just assume that your instructor will drop you. The relevant drop dates are below:

2/21 Last day to be eligible for a refund, or to drop without a “W” on your transcript.

5/8 Last day to drop with a “W” on your transcript.

(Though I do my best with deadline dates, you should check with Counseling or Admissions to be sure)

Although it is your responsibility to drop the course, your instructor has the right to drop you for any of the following:

- Inappropriate posting or emailing.
- Academic Dishonesty of any kind.
- Missing two Module Exams.
- Inactivity lasting over fourteen days.

Students with Disabilities: Students who believe that they have some disability and that they are entitled to academic accommodations should notify me and contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. They are located in A-1134, and their phone number is (562) 938-4558, TTY (562) 938-4833. They can also be reached online at dsps.lbcc.edu. I would be happy to work with any student who is academically disadvantaged in any way.

Course Assistance: Mr. Monge will respond to questions either through the Moodle messaging system, the course website, or email. Do not expect an immediate reply, but you should get a response within a day or two. For more extensive assistance, free tutoring for this class may also be available from Learning and Academic Resources (LAR). They are located in the Library in L-250, and their phone number is (562) 938-4474. They can also be reached online at www.lbcc.edu/LAR/. The tutoring link is in the left menu bar, but there are many other helpful resources here.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating in any way, plagiarism, copying assignments, cutting and pasting on an exam, and collaborating on an assignment without explicit permission. Punishment for academic dishonesty can range from getting a zero on the assignment, to dismissal from the course, to expulsion. Please review your school’s policies regarding academic dishonesty, or ask me if you have any questions.

Note: I take my grading responsibility seriously. For me to assign you a grade means I am certifying that you have earned it. I cannot give you a grade unless I am confident that you have completed the assignment on your own. This means that if I have presumptive evidence that you have cheated on an assignment, or that the work is not your own, then I have the right to withhold a grade for the assignment, which would be equivalent to a zero for the assignment. I do not have to prove that you cheated in order to give you a zero for an assignment. In this event, I will work with you if you think you can demonstrate that the work was your own.

Incompletes: Incomplete grades will be assigned only in the case of documented medical emergencies. Otherwise each student will receive a zero for any incomplete assignments at the end of the semester, and the appropriate grade will be recorded.

Tacit Agreement to the Syllabus: *Should you refuse to abide by any of the policies in this syllabus, you have the right to withdraw yourself from the course. If you remain enrolled in the course, you are tacitly agreeing to be bound by all the policies, procedures, and guidelines stated in the syllabus. See the [LBCC catalog](#) for more details of rights and responsibilities, and [standards of conduct](#).*

Modules: My course is currently divided into four modules, as follows, each of which will cover four weeks:

First Module: Introduction to Critical Thinking and Types of Statements

Second Module: Worldview Exploration and Justification, Persuasion through Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

Third Module: Inductive Arguments and Informal Fallacies

Fourth Module: Deductive Reasoning using Propositional Logic