

# PHILOSOPHY 11: CRITICAL THINKING

## Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2017 Long Beach City College

Class Meetings: Th 6:45 pm – 9:55 pm, T-1323

Instructor: Michael Monge

Section number 30087

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



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### Course Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Analyze the components of arguments and types of arguments.
  2. Distinguish between examples of deductive and inductive arguments.
  3. Evaluate inductive arguments for strength, cogency, and/or presence of fallacies in speeches or text.
- ☒ understand and apply basic terms in logic.
  - ☒ identify, analyze, and criticize general arguments.
  - ☒ recognize and identify fallacious reasoning, in both their own and others' arguments.
  - ☒ put their criticisms of arguments in extended prose form.
  - ☒ use their own judgment to evaluate the reasonableness of statements.
  - ☒ analyze specific styles of arguments, including casual inferences and analogies.

**Grading:** Exams will be taken on scantron 886-E forms, and will include true/false, matching, multiple-choice and short essay questions. The final exam will include material from throughout the entire course. If you participate regularly in the class, and thus enrich the educational experience for the rest of the students, you may receive up to an additional point and a half, so you might still receive an A for an 88.5%. You may check your grade at any time throughout the semester using the online gradebook, which appears under “Links” on the class website. To access the online gradebook you will need your ID number and the section number of the class.

| Percent value for each exercise |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 30%                             | Mid-Term Exams (3)  |
| 25%                             | Final Exam          |
| 20%                             | Argumentative Essay |
| 20%                             | Homework/Quizzes    |
| 5%                              | Attendance          |

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

**Homework and Assignments:** Homework will be assigned, generally the day before it is due. All homework assignments should be kept together in a single notebook or binder. At several random points throughout the semester, I may collect all assignments assigned to that point, and grade with either a ✓+ (10 pts), a ✓ (8 pts), or a ✓- (6 pts). This class is a collaborative effort by all students and as such homework assignments, written essays, and quizzes might be examined, corrected, and even graded by other students, for both your benefits. Please inform me at the beginning of the semester if you have any objections to this policy.

**Attendance and Participation:** I expect you to attend all of the scheduled class meetings. Your attendance will count as 5% of your grade. You may miss two classes without affecting this portion of your grade, but for any absence beyond this you will lose two percentage points. You may be dropped from the class if your attendance grade reaches zero. NOTE: Showing up after roll has been taken will count as one half of an absence. I will generally take roll at the beginning of class. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of class.

**Make-up work:** There will be no make-up exams. Your lowest mid-term score will be dropped. Don't worry about missing quizzes; your grade will only reflect quizzes which you take. When absent, you may receive any homework assignment on the day you return, and turn in the assignment the following class period. If you are absent the day the paper is due, email me a copy. No work will be accepted late.

**Drop Policy and Distractions:** It is your responsibility to drop this course. See below for relevant dates. If you fail to drop yourself and do not complete the course, you will likely receive an 'F' for the course. Although it is your

responsibility to drop the course, you may be dropped if you miss an exam without notifying me or do not attend class for two weeks. All students have a right to an undisrupted and undistracted learning experience, and so all disruptions or distractions in the classroom will be considered a violation of this right. You will receive one warning **for the entire semester** for any distraction or disruption you cause, which includes, but is not limited to, a ringing cell phone. On the second offense, you will lose your attendance point for the day. On your third violation, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day.

**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](https://dsps.lbcc.edu). I would be happy to work with any student who is academically disadvantaged in any way.

**Course Assistance:** Your professor is willing to meet with students outside of class. Just ask, and we will try to schedule a meeting. I share the office in T-2323 with all the other adjunct Social Science instructors. Free tutoring for this class and others 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/](http://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 on exams, plagiarism, copying assignments, and collaborating on an assignment without explicit permission. Punishment for academic dishonesty can range from getting a zero on the assignment to expulsion. Please review your school's policies regarding academic dishonesty, or ask me if you have any questions.

**Note:** 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](#).*

**Tentative Schedule:** Underlined dates are holidays. Do the assigned reading BEFORE the class meeting.

|             | Date  | Topics  | Reading Assignments            |
|-------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Week #1     | 2/9   | Introduction to course and reasoning / Distinguishing Critical from Uncritical Thinking | CT: Intro., pp. 1-20, Ch. 1    |
| Week #2     | 2/16  | Self-Assessment & Uncritical Methods & Mindsets, Definitions, Statement Types           | CT: Ch. 2-3                    |
| <b>2/21</b> | Last Day to Drop to request a refund and without a "W" on your transcript |   |                                |
| Week #3     | 2/23  | Normative, Objective, and Subjective Statements, Literal and Figurative Statements      | CT: Ch. 4, app., LFB pp. 77-78 |
| Week #4     | <b>3/2</b>  | <b>First Exam</b>   |                                |
| Week #5     | 3/9   | Non-Logical Persuasion: Ethos and Pathos, Worldviews                                    | CT: Ch. 8 & 10                 |
| Week #6     | 3/16  | Critical Thinking Standards and Recognizing Arguments                                   | CT: Ch.6, LFB: Ch. 1-2         |
| Week #7     | 3/23  | Standard Form Arguments and Inductive versus Deductive Reasoning                        | LFB: Ch. 4-6                   |
| Week #8     | <b>3/30</b>   | <b>Second Exam / PAPERS DUE</b>   |                                |
| Week #9     | <u>4/6</u>  | <u>Easter Break</u>   |                                |
| Week #10    | 4/13  | Inductive Evaluative Terminology & Common Inductive Argumentative Patterns              | LFB: Ch. 7, 23                 |
| Week #11    | 4/20  | Rhetorical Pitfalls & Argumentative Fallacies   | LFB: Ch. 24-25                 |
| Week #12    | 4/27  | Disputational Fallacies   | LFB: Ch. 26                    |
| Week #13    | <b>5/4</b>  | <b>Third Exam</b>   |                                |
| <b>5/7</b>  | Last Day to Drop with a "W" on transcript                                 |   |                                |
| Week #14    | 5/11  | Truth-functional symbolism and Compound Statements                                      | LFB: Ch. 14-15                 |
| Week #15    | 5/18  | Using Truth Tables for Statement Classification and to Determine Validity               | LFB: Ch. 16-17                 |
| Week #16    | 5/25  | Basic Argument Patterns and Logic Puzzles   | LFB: Ch. 19, 27                |
| Week #17    | <b>6/1</b>  | <b>Final Exam</b>   |                                |

I do my best with grading deadlines, but you should check with admissions for the official dates.