

# PHILOSOPHY 110: CRITICAL THINKING

## Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2016 Santiago Canyon College

Class Meetings: T, Th 1:30 pm – 3:35 pm, H-125

Instructor: Michael Monge

Section number 19009

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Texts: *Critical Thinking: How to Reliably*

*Pilot Your Own Mind*, by Marcelo Pimentel

*Logic For Beginners: A Skills Based Introduction*, by

Michael J. Monge



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## Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and evaluate definitions, assumptions, claims, arguments, and worldviews, as found within philosophical thought, everyday expression, modern media, and within academic disciplines.
2. Apply critical analysis and evaluation to professional, societal, global and everyday issues and problems.
3. Creatively apply various forms of reasoning in the activity of problem solving.
4. Reflectively analyze one's own beliefs and presuppositions and their effects on our reasoning.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- ☒ 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 causal 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
15%	Argumentative Essay
25%	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 three classes without affecting this portion of your grade, but for any absence beyond this you will lose one percentage point. 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 (DSPS). I would be happy to work with any student who is academically disadvantaged in any way. To arrange for accommodations, contact DSPS at (714)628-4860; (714)639-9742 (TTY), or stop by E-105.

**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. Should I suspect that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty of any sort, I may require the student to complete the assignment on campus within my presence.

**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.

**Tutoring:** Free tutoring may be available for this course. If you are struggling in the class, you should first try to arrange to meet your professor, who is more than willing to discuss a student’s progress or the course material. Otherwise, to find out if there is a tutor available for this class, or any other class, you can contact the SCC Tutoring Center in U-80, at (714) 628-4791, or online at <http://sccollege.edu/StudentServices/TutorCenter/>.

**Tacit Agreement to the Syllabus:** *Should you disagree to any of the policies in this syllabus, you may withdraw yourself from the course and take the course with another professor. If you remain enrolled in the course, you are tacitly agreeing to be bound by all policies, procedures, and guidelines stated in the syllabus. See your school catalog for more details of your rights and responsibilities.*

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

	Date	Topics	Reading Assignments
Week #1	2/9, 11	Introduction to course and reasoning, Distinguishing Critical from Uncritical Thinking	CT: Intro., pp. 1-20 / Ch. 1
Week #2	2/16, 18	Self-Assessment & Uncritical Methods & Mindsets, Definitions, Types of Statements	CT: Ch. 2 / CT: Ch.3
<b>2/21</b>	Last Day to Drop to request a refund and without a “W” on your transcript		
Week #3	2/23, 25	Normative, Objective, and Subjective Statements, Literal and Figurative statements	CT: Ch. 4, app., LFB: p. 77-78
Week #4	<b>3/1, 3</b>	<b>First Exam</b>	
Week #5	3/8, 10	Non-Logical Persuasion: Ethos and Pathos / Worldview Exploration	CT: Ch. 8 / CT: Ch. 10
Week #6	3/15, 17	Critical Thinking Standards, Statements, Arguments	CT: Ch. 6, LFB: Ch. 1, 2
Week #7	3/22, 24	Standard Form Arguments / Evaluating Deductive and Inductive Reasoning	LFB: Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7
Week #8	<b>3/29, 31</b>	<b>Second Exam</b>	
Week #9	<u>4/5, 7</u>	<u>Easter Break</u>	
Week #10	4/12, 14	Common Inductive Arguments	LFB: Ch. 23
Week #11	4/19, 21	Rhetorical Pitfalls / Argumentative Fallacies	LFB: Ch. 24, 25
Week #12	4/26, 28	Disputational Fallacies	LFB: Ch. 26
Week #13	<b>5/3, 5</b>	<b>Exam Three</b>	
<b>5/8</b>	Last Day to Drop with a “W” on transcript		
Week #14	5/10, 12	Truth-functional symbolism, Compound Statements	LFB: Ch. 14, 15
Week #15	5/17, 19	Statement Classification, Using Truth Tables to Determine Validity	LFB: Ch. 16, 17
Week #16	5/24, 26	Basic Argument Patterns, Application, Logic Puzzles	LFB: Ch. 19, 27
Week #17	<b>5/31, 6/2</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

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