



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	PHIL
Course Number:	105H
Descriptive Title:	Honors Critical Thinking and Discourse
Course Disciplines:	Philosophy
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Philosophy
Catalog Description:	<p>This honors course, intended for students in the Honors Transfer Program, focuses on the study and development of critical reasoning and effective argumentation. Emphasis is placed on the application of critical thinking skills to the production of clear, well-argued position and advocacy papers and to the linguistic and logical analysis of the writings of others. Students' papers and other writings will total a minimum of 6,000-8,000 words. This course is enriched through extensive rigorous reading, writing, and research assignments.</p> <p>Note: Students may either take Philosophy 105 or Philosophy 105H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.</p>
Prerequisite:	A minimum grade of C in English 1A or English 1AH
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Course Length:	Full Term
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Proposed
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Proposed
General Education ECC:	Area 4B - Language and Rationality: Communication and Analytical Thinking
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area A3 - English Language Communication and Critical Thinking: Critical Thinking

Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 1B - Critical Thinking and Composition
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Errors in Reasoning Students will be able to recognize and evaluate both errors in reasoning, including the primary fallacies, and linguistic techniques used in statements and arguments.</p> <p>SLO #2 Problems in Positions Students will be able to recognize and articulate problems in the positions and arguments of themselves and others.</p> <p>SLO #3 Composing Arguments Students will be able to compose coherent and well-reasoned arguments demonstrating research skills, and the ability to evaluate essays, studies, and statistical data. They will be able to analyze various arguments, including analogical and scientific ones as well as addressing counterarguments to their position.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and analyze arguments representing multicultural views and perspectives with an emphasis on the role of language in argumentation. 2. Analyze arguments in logical terms. 3. Demonstrate the basics of writing an argumentative essay. 4. Distinguish fact/knowledge from judgement/opinion. 5. Distinguish knowledge and beliefs obtained from sensory evidence from both ethics and metaphysics. 6. Evaluate the credibility and effectiveness of written argumentation in various domains of inquiry, with particular attention to the expertise and bias of speakers and writers. 7. Evaluate the credibility of evidence source materials. 8. Locate, analyze, and synthesize sources, evidence, and reasons in argumentative writing. 9. Analyze the written arguments of others. 10. Identify and analyze fallacies, analogies, statistics, studies, and surveys. 11. Interpret passages of texts, such as the Constitution and the Bible, paying close attention to problems of context, translations from other languages, contradictions, and exceptions to rules. 12. Analyze the myriad kinds of advertising, including being able to recognize and identify the fallacies, biases, and persuasive techniques used by advertisers. 13. Conduct scholarly research independently to enrich multiple reading and writing tasks.
Major Topics:	<p>I. Argumentative Language (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Identify Arguments B. Distinguish Arguments C. Analyze Evaluative and Expressive Language D. Definitions: Ambiguity and Vagueness E. Recognize and Complete Enthematic Material F. Analyze Rhetorical Elements of Argumentative Writing G. Develop Précis</p> <p>II. How to Produce Effective Written Argumentation (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Major Thesis of Paper B. Elements of the Extended Argument C. Language of Argumentative Writing</p>

	<p>D. Presentation of Facts and Opinions</p> <p>E. Author Credibility and Credentials</p> <p>F. Author Bias</p> <p>III. The Logic of Argument (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Premise, Conclusion, and Inference</p> <p>B. Deduction and Induction</p> <p>C. Validity and Truth, Soundness and Cogency</p> <p>D. Fallacious Reasoning</p> <p>IV. Fallacies (9 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Formal</p> <p>B. Informal</p> <p>C. Inductive</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">1. Causal</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2. Statistical/Generalizations</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3. Analogy</p> <p>V. Evidence in Argumentation (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Observation and Inference</p> <p>B. Fact Versus Judgement and Knowledge Versus Belief</p> <p>C. Sufficiency and Relevance of Evidence</p> <p>D. Different Modes of Inquiry</p> <p>E. Credibility and Source Material (Including Media and the Internet)</p> <p>VI. Refining Argumentative Writing Skills (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Developing/Clarifying Thesis</p> <p>B. Audience Awareness</p> <p>C. Research and Presentation of Evidence</p> <p>D. Avoidance of Fallacies</p> <p>E. Argument Strategies and Purposes</p> <p>F. Analysis of Propaganda Techniques</p> <p>VII. Application of Argumentative Writing Skills on Current Topical Issues (9 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Moral and Legal Reasoning</p> <p>B. Assessing Strange and Unusual/Weird Claims</p> <p>C. Synthesizing the Relationships of Logic, Thought, Language and Culture</p> <p>D. Construction of Position on Current Issues</p> <p>E. Analyzing the Position of Others</p> <p>VIII. Analysis of Advertising (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Bias and Expertise</p> <p>B. Appeals to the Subconscious</p> <p>C. Appeals to Emotions</p> <p>D. Deceitful Claims: Ambiguity, Concealed Facts, Exaggerations and Lies</p> <p>E. Puffery</p> <p>F. Loss of Autonomy</p> <p>IX. Interpretation of Passages and Texts (2 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Context</p> <p>B. Translations from Other Languages</p> <p>C. Exceptions to Rules</p> <p>D. Contradictions</p> <p>E. Evaluation in Light of Scientific and Other Knowledge</p> <p>F. The Problems with the Claim of Basing One's Moral and Other Views on a Literal Reading of the Constitution, Bible, or Other Religious Texts</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54

Total Laboratory Hours:	0
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Primary Method of Evaluation	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In an eight- to ten-page essay, describe the problems that have been expressed with respect to the theory of evolution. Defend or critique this theory, using the criteria for good explanations that we have discussed in class.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Write an eight- to ten-page essay that analyzes the language of the attached essay for emotive content, ambiguity/vagueness, and other persuasive devices. Determine what, if any, cognitive value the essay has beyond such devices.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Write an eight- to ten-page essay that criticizes or defends medical experimentation on animals from a utilitarian perspective.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Other (specify), Reading Reports, Written Homework
If Other:	Précis Development
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Other (specify)
If other:	Class exercises, formal and informal peer response
Work Outside of Class	Answer questions, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	Lewis Vaughn, <u>The Power of Critical Thinking: Effective Reasoning about Ordinary and Extraordinary Claims</u> , Oxford University Press, 2015. Brooke Noel Moore, Richard Parker, <u>Critical Thinking (Loose-leaf)</u> , McGraw-Hill Education, 2016.
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	Newspapers and magazines for student choice of argumentative material
Requisite	Prerequisite
Category	communication or computation skill
Requisite course:	A minimum grade of C in English 1A or English 1AH
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	The student must be able to compose essays and research papers. This includes composing thesis statements, using appropriate means to develop the thesis (examples, facts, anecdotes, and reasons), and using research skills to write a research paper. ENGL 1A - Read and apply critical-thinking skills to numerous published articles and to college-level, book-length works for the purpose of writing and discussion. ENGL 1A - Demonstrate the ability to locate and utilize a variety of academic databases, peer-reviewed journals, and scholarly websites. ENGL 1A - Utilize MLA guidelines to format essays, cite sources in the texts of essays, and compile Works Cited lists. The student must think critically in reading and analyzing the writing of others. This includes the ability to identify essential elements of written discourse (central theme, thesis statement, main points, etc.) and different methods of thesis development

	<p>(comparison, contrast, cause-effect analysis, and classification); to summarize and paraphrase written discourse, and to advocate or challenge the author's opinion.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Recognize and revise sentence-level grammar and usage errors.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Read and apply critical-thinking skills to numerous published articles and to college-level, book-length works for the purpose of writing and discussion.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including dissecting and understanding prompts, prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Compose coherent, multi-paragraph, thesis-driven essays with logical and appropriate supporting ideas, including in-text citations.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Utilize MLA guidelines to format essays, cite sources in the texts of essays, and compile Works Cited lists.</p> <p>The student must know how to locate and correct grammatical errors (sentence fragments, misused commas, pronoun-antecedent disagreement, etc.) in his/her own writing, and in the writing of others.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Recognize and revise sentence-level grammar and usage errors.</p> <p>ENGL 1A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including dissecting and understanding prompts, prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p>
Requisite:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). if applicable	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Randall Firestone
Date:	10/17/2017
Board Approval Date:	12/18/2017