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Date reviewed: Sept. 2014
C&GE approved: Oct 13, 2014
Board approved: Nov 12, 2014
Semester effective: Fall 2015

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

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

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: Fisher, Alec. *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2011. Print.

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. demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of the field of critical thinking,
3. explain the purpose and applicability of critical thinking,
4. apply critical thinking methods to reach reasonable conclusions,
5. identify the presence and absence of reasoning,
6. identify flaws in reasoning,
7. propose viable solutions to vague reasoning,
8. judge the context of a claim and its evidence,
9. explain the structure of reasoning about causality,
10. analyze arguments based upon causal explanations,
11. identify and distinguish deductive and inductive arguments,
12. evaluate the acceptability of arguments,
13. construct argument maps from written texts,
14. construct argument maps from spoken arguments,
15. distinguish arguments from explanations,

16. identify assumptions of arguments,
17. identify and evaluate premises of arguments,
18. identify and evaluate conclusions of arguments,
19. judge the effectiveness of inferences in written arguments,
20. judge the appropriateness of assumptions within deductive arguments,
21. judge the credibility of sources (spoken, traditional media, and Internet),
22. evaluate the use of scientific data,
23. use scientific data effectively in argumentation and reasoning, and
24. compare reasoning processes of different cultures.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I What is Critical Thinking?

- A. Definitions and key terms of CT
- B. Important historical ideas concerning CT
- C. The purposes of CT
- D. Reading and understanding arguments

Unit II Reasons and Conclusions

- A. Identifying reasoning and reasons
- B. The terminology of reasoning
- C. Introduction to CMap software

Unit III Different Ways of Reasoning

- A. Chains of reasoning
- B. Joint reasons
- C. Disjunctions

Unit IV Arguments, Explanations, and Assumptions

- A. Distinguishing arguments from explanations
- B. Identifying assumptions

Unit V Vagueness and Inexact Reasoning

- A. Identifying vague reasoning
- B. Arguments maps and incorrect reasoning

Unit VI Credibility

- A. The logical structure of arguments
- B. Context as an influence of credibility
- C. Sources as evidence

- Unit VII Deduction
 A. Judging inferences
 B. Deductive validity

- Unit VIII Causality
 A. The Structure of Reasoning About Causality

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

Methods of Evaluation

1. Group presentations
2. Written assignments
3. Quizzes
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