

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**CRITICAL THINKING
PHIL 1300**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Spring 2011

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to practical reasoning. This course covers the nature of deductive and inductive arguments, diagramming arguments, the search for implicit premises and conclusions and the role of falsehood, deception, and emotion in reasoning. More important, PHIL 1300 is a careful study of argument construction and evaluation.

Entry Level Standards:

None

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Moore, Brooke Noel, and Parker, Richard. *Critical Thinking*, 9th edition. McGraw Hill, 2009. ISBN 978-0-07-338667-6

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	What Is Critical Thinking?
2	Credibility
3	Credibility
4	Persuasion & Rhetoric
5	Persuasion & Rhetoric
6	Fallacies
7	Arguments
8	Deduction
9	Deduction
10	Deduction

11	Deduction
12	Induction
13	Induction
14	Moral & Legal Reasoning
15	Final Exam

II. Course Goals*:

The course will

- A. Expand students' understanding of what it means to think critically. I.2, I.7, II.4, II.6
- B. Extend students' understanding of the basic relationship between language and critical thinking. I.2, I.3, I.7, II.6
- C. Grow students' understanding of the relationship between logic and critical thinking. I.2, I.7, II.6
- D. Foster students' ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate arguments I.7, II.6
- E. Increase students' skills at making personal, professional, and civic decisions by using critical thought processes. I.2, I.7, II.4, II.6
- F. Enhance students' ability to speak and write as critical thinkers. I.3, I.4, II.6

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference the university parallel program General Education Goals.

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will be able to:

- 1. Explain the unique relationship between logic/critical thinking and various other disciplines and articulate the importance of thinking critically. A, B, C
- 2. Recognize deductive arguments and their parts and evaluate them for omissions, validity and soundness. C
- 3. Recognize and evaluate inductive arguments as to type (analogy, generalization, abduction, abstraction) and cogency. C
- 4. Recognize common informal fallacies and rhetorical devices that appear in arguments. A, B
- 5. Evaluate definitions for clarity and precision. B, D, E, F
- 6. Explain/illustrate the Socratic Method. A, B, C, D, E, F
- 7. Understand/define some key concepts of formal logic. C
- 8. Construct/write better arguments. B, D, E, F

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 100%

The grade is based upon numerous short-answer quizzes and a final exam.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

N/A

C. Field Work:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

N/A

E. Grading Scale:

100-90 = A
89-85 = B+
84-80 = B
79-75 = C+
74-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-00 = F

V. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of Academic Affairs.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as

one's own work.

- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.