

## Syllabus for Critical Thinking (Philosophy 5)

Spring, 2017

Instructor, Corine Sutherland

An Introduction to Critical Thinking

Instructor Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1pm-6:00pm, generally, but I do check email daily, and **this is a virtual office hour**, online only.

**Email:** click out of this website and contact me separately at the following email address:  
suthercs@lamission.edu

WELCOME! This is FULLY online course, no meetings on the campus, just all online work.

**Print up a copy of this syllabus in case the system goes down.**

### **The Purpose of this Course (Student Learning Outcomes):**

*The successful student will be able to:*

1. Identify the structure of an argument.
2. Evaluate deductive arguments for validity and inductive arguments for strength.
3. Differentiate among various informal fallacies.
4. Compose a cogent argumentative essay.

#### **Important Dates and Deadlines**

Start Date: 06-FEB-2017

Last Date to add class: 17-FEB-2017

Last Date to drop **without** a "W": 17-FEB-2017

Last Date to drop **with** a "W": 25-MAR-2017

End Date: 02-APR-2017

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### **The Structure of This Course**

#### **Upon Completion of this Course:**

*The successful student will be able to:*

1. Learn to identify the parts of an argument.
2. Be able to identify fallacies/slanders and know how to correct them.
3. Be able to write a complete argument, in a structured argument form.

**Topics** to be covered in this course, the book, any assigned videos include: what is critical thinking, what are the parts of an argument, what is and is not an argument, how arguments can go wrong, testing arguments for validity and invalidity, writing a formal argument.

**The Required Text** is *The Power of Critical Thinking* by Lewis Vaughn, 5th edition, 2014, ISBN 978-0199385423 , Oxford University Press. Video Material: Various videos will be assigned to watch, and can be seen through YouTube or Google Videos. I will try to provide a link for each video, but if they do not work, the title will be available, if you have another means for watching videos.

**STUDENT PRACTICE ON WEBSITE** (third edition, but similar practice) - <http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199385423/> (Links to an external site.)

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Course Schedule is as follows regarding text and video material, homework, quizzes, paper, and tests. Discussions will not be used as this is a skills based class, not a debate class. Being a skills based class, the class does not come full circle until the end, when all parts learned in the class are brought together and used for the final. Assignments will generally open on Mondays at 8am and close on Sundays at 11:59pm, unless otherwise noted. Check your emails and the Announcements daily as an occasional addition or change may be made to the syllabus, but changes to the syllabus will have a follow-up notice posted on Announcements. Follow the course map below this key to know opening and closing dates for material. **Be sure to read, read, read any instructions with a quiz, exam, paper. Students get confused with my quizzes on Chapter 5, so read the instructions, first. Also, NO Zip files for any uploaded course work. Use only .docx or .rtf, but no zip files, they are hard to open. And lastly, be sure to click "submit" when you load up coursework. Failure to do so results in neither myself nor the tech people being able to access that assignment, and you would lose those points.**

Exams and quizzes will be comprised of True/False, multiple choice, and/or short essay questions. Exam and Quizzes are found under Assignments. Papers are found under Assignments. And Homeworks are found under Homework. Every Assignment/Exam/Paper opens on Mondays at 8am of the

week it is listed in the course map. All quizzes and exams will close at 11:59pm on Sundays of the week due. **Exams and quizzes ARE under forced completion**, which means, when you start them, be ready to finish them at that same time period. Don't log in and log out. This is done for security reasons, given the amount of students we have registered for the course. Answers to quizzes and exams, barring the final, will show *after* the quiz/exam closes. Make-up quizzes and exams will not be based on the same quiz/exams once they close, should you need something "re-opened." *Any late coursework, if approved, is deducted by 30%.*

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**CourseMap - Use the following check-off list to help yourself keep track. Always watch your due dates. I recommend you get things done as soon as you can and do not leave it to the day of the due date, if possible.:**

**Week 1, 02/06 - 2/19:**

- Monday - Introduction to the class.
- Wednesday - Syllabus quiz
- Friday - Quiz #1 on Chapter 1
- Sunday - Quiz #2 on Chapter 2
- Sunday - Student Introduction on Discussion Board.

**Week 2, 2/13 - 2/19:**

- Monday - Homework #1
- Wednesday - Short argument paper #1
- Friday - Discussion #1,
- Sunday - Quiz #3 on Chapter 3

**Week 3, 2/20 - 2/26:**

- Friday - Quiz #4 on Chapter 4
- Saturday 25th 8am- Sunday 26th 11:59pm - Exam 1

**Week 4, 02/27 - 03/5:**

- Begin Chapter 5.
- Wednesday - Homework #2 on Chapter 5,
- Friday - Quiz #5 on Chapter 5.

**Week 5, 03/6 - 03/12:**

Finish Chapter 5.

Wednesday - Short argument paper #2 based on video and Chapter 5.

Sunday - Discussion #2

**Week 6, 03/13 - 03/19:**

Friday - Discussion #3 on Chapter 8

Sunday - Argument paper due 5-7 pages.

**Week 7, 03/20 - 03/26:**

Monday reading, Chapter 9, Wednesday Chapter 10, Homework #3 on Chapter 9 due Friday, Sunday Chapter 11.

**Week 8, 03/27 - 04/2:**

Final Exam - study material will be provided. Specific Information for the final exam will be posted, but stems from Chapters 1, 2, 5, and 8. Final Exam will be on 3/31/17 from 6pm-11:00pm., please plan to keep this night open. I do not give *any* exams early. Do not email me last minute that you had other arrangements. This is a college level class, so please plan on doing all course material and completing assignments as such.

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**Plagiarism:** Please do your own work and resultant you will be proud of the work on which you receive a grade. Plagiarism, if found, will result in a "0" grade for that assignment. No make-ups allowed for the assignment that is plagiarized.

**Dropping the course:** If you find that you can no longer keep up with the course, you have the option to withdraw from the course.

**Material to be completed for this course:**

1. 5 weekly online quizzes at 20 points each.
2. 2 short argument papers (topics to be assigned) at 25 points each, 3-4 pages each.
3. 1 argumentative paper at 100 points, 5-7 pages.

4. 2 exams at 100 points each.
5. 3 homeworks at 25 points each.
6. 3 Discussions at 20 points each.

\* Quizzes and exams are open for the week they are due, but once you log in, they are timed, so prepared.

### Grade Scale:

475-525=A  
425-474=B  
375-424=C  
325-374=D  
0-324=F

**RULE #! - Don't fall behind in logic. Once you start to slip in a logic class, it truly is hard to catch back up. ALSO, Logic asks you to think slower than you normally do because there is so much to consider. NO THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX, not in logic. Logic studies for contradictions or good arguments based on the information given to you.**

### FOR THIS CLASS:

1. You must be computer literate and have access to a computer and the Internet to take this course. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR COMPUTER! IF YOU COMPUTER FAILS, YOU HAVE (1) FRIENDS AND RELATIVES; (2) INTERNET CAFES; (3) THE LIBRARY. IF YOU ARE OUT OF TOWN, GO TO INTERNET CAFES OR A LIBRARY. EXAMS and 5-7 page ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER WILL NOT BE REOPENED. I am very firm about this.**

2. The lecture content and all assignments will be posted on the ONLINE CALENDAR. **You are responsible for all posted calendar assignments. ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES MAY CHANGE AS WE PROGRESS--ALWAYS CHECK DAILY FOR any changes to the calendar or an assignment.**

### IT IS A STANDING ASSIGNMENT TO CHECK CALENDAR AND DISCUSSION DAILY.

3. This course will move VERY fast. If you get even a little behind, you will have great difficulty completing the course.

4. CONTACT--me if you have question, or feel free to contact each other. I will check my email daily and respond within 24 hours. Email is [suthercs@lamission.edu](mailto:suthercs@lamission.edu)

5. The quizzes, homeworks, and two exams are open only once (BUT, check the closing dates, so you can manage your schedule). **It is recommended that you read the assignments and PRACTICE with all the exercises available online before taking the quizzes.**

**ONLINE CHEATING POLICY Please do your own work. The penalties for cheating in college are not the same as cheating in high school. Such cheating and/or plagiarism can go on your school record depending on the severity.**

### ADA Statement

Los Angeles Mission College's Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) is committed to Developing Strategies that Promote Success for students with disabilities. Students with disability related educational limitations receive accommodation and educational planning to ensure that they have equal opportunity for access to, and full participation in, the curricular and related activities of the College.

Office Contact and Hours: 818/364-7732

Mondays 8:00am to 7:00pm

Tuesdays 8:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesdays 8:00am to 5:00pm

Thursdays 8:00am to 5:00pm

Fridays 8:00am to 12:00pm

Office email:

[DSPSinfo@lamission.edu](mailto:DSPSinfo@lamission.edu)

## Assignments Summary:

Date	Details
Thu Jul 21, 2016	<a href="#">5 points Extra Credit</a>
Sun Sep 11, 2016	<a href="#">Quiz 01</a>
	<a href="#">First Short Argument Paper</a>
	<a href="#">Homework #1</a>
Sun Sep 25, 2016	<a href="#">Quiz 02</a>
	<a href="#">Homework #2</a>
Sun Oct 2, 2016	<a href="#">Quiz 05</a>
	<a href="#">Second Short Paper - set aside some time to do this one.</a>
Sun Oct 9, 2016	<a href="https://www.jeopardy.com/">Extra Credit - https://www.jeopardy.com/</a>
	<a href="#">Main Paper due 10/9/16</a>

Date	Details
Sun Oct 16, 2016	Homework #3
Sun Feb 19, 2017	Guidelines for Success
	Exam #1 Chaps 1-3; Opens on 9/16 at 8am and closes on 9/18 at 11:59pm
	Extra Credit
	Extra Credit
	Final Exam
	Final Exam
	Final Exam Summer 2015
	Jeopardy Xtra Credit
	Mind Map
	Mind Map
	Mini-Me Paper #1
	Mini-Me Paper #2
	Mini-Me Paper #3
	Quiz 03
	Quiz 04
	Quiz 06
	Restricted Final Exam - only for students who had prior approval for reassignm
	day/time to take the final.
	Third Short Argument
	This quiz is mandatory for the Philosophy Department, if you wouldn't mind h department.
	Utilitarianism Ppt