

PHIL110 Fall 2011, DR. S. A. WAWRYTKO

CRITICAL THINKING & COMPOSITION

Sec 1 (22359) TTH 9:30am-10:45am HH-134
Sec 2 (22360) TTH 11:00am-12:15pm LSS-244

The profound person rejects labored discourse,
but the fool seizes upon it and makes it his
treasure.- Xun Zi

Introduction to critical thinking and writing. Evaluation and development of correct reasoning and effective style and organization in argumentative writing. Correct deductive and inductive reasoning. Fallacies. Critical appraisal of evidence. Construction of rebuttals and counter-arguments.+(catalogue description)

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION!
WE WILL FOCUS ON SKILLS ESSENTIAL TO READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE
BOOT CAMP FOR YOUR BRAIN!
MENTAL CALISTHENICS- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!!

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tony Boutelle and Stan Gibilisco, *Logic DeMYSTiFieD*

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. (University of Chicago Press, 1996)

Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, 4th edition (Hackett)

Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard under Assignments

SKILLS TO BE INCULCATED AND EVALUATED AS APPLIED TO READING, ANALYZING, RESEARCHING AND WRITING

refinement of thinking processes by

1. fostering clarity of thought;
2. encouraging communication by means of a logical organization of concepts;
3. sharpening analytical and critical skills;
4. providing exposure to formal systems of logic as languages (Symbolic/Propositional and the Logic of Sets);
5. uncovering informal fallacies in ordinary language, with reference to concrete and practical examples;
6. putting the course materials in context through an examination of contemporary scientific theory as well as alternative, non-western thinking processes and styles of thought

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

regular attendance/in-class commentaries (100 points)

SKILLS ASSESSMENT form, 3 versions (100 points total)

- 1 initial thoughts/baseline (due Sept 1)
- 2 transitional thoughts/reality check (due Oct 18)
- 3 final thoughts (due Dec 8)

MICRO-ESSAYS (50 points total)

- Why I Write+(due Sept 1)
- My Favorite Fallacies+(due Oct 13)

CHAPTER QUIZZES (400 points total)

- 1-ARGUMENTS, VALIDITY, AND TRUTH TABLES (50)
- 2-PROPOSITIONAL LOGIC (100)
- 5-FALLACIES, PARADOXES, AND REVELATIONS (100)
- 6-STRATEGIES FOR PROOFS (50)
- 8-THE LOGIC OF SETS (100)

ANALYSIS AND COMPOSITION (350 points total)

three article reports/essays, using Reading with Both Sides of the Brain worksheet
1000-2000 words

- David S. Reynolds, Rescuing the Real Uncle Tom+
 - Cordelia Fine, Biased But Brilliant+
 - George Orwell, On Front of Your Nose+
- (50 points each)

final researched essay, your response to George Orwell, Why I Write+; 3000 words, and a minimum of five text sources (internet sources excluded) consult and FOLLOW Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (200 points)

- prospectus and outline (due Nov 1)
- first draft of main text (due Nov 15)
- final version of text (due Dec 13/15)

REQUIRED	OPTIONAL
title page epigraph introduction sections and sub-sections notes annotated bibliography abstract	dedication lists acknowledgments abbreviations glossary

**IF YOU DON'T HAVE ALL OF THESE COMPONENTS,
DON'T BOTHER TO TURN IT IN**

NO EXCEPTIONS

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1

Aug 30

POWERPOINT Metacognition: Learning How to Learn,

David R. Williams, *Sin Boldly!: Dr. Dave's Guide to Writing the College Paper*

Richard Palmer, *When something is awful, why not say so?*, *Write In Style: A Guide to Good English*

DEDUCTION

ARGUMENTS, VALIDITY, AND TRUTH TABLES

Sept 1

MICRO-ESSAY 1 *Why I Write+*

discuss your thoughts and attitudes concerning the writing process- how do you approach a writing task? do you like/dislike writing? what are your preconceptions and expectations about writing?

Skills Assessment 1, initial thoughts

Chap 1, *Logic Demystified* (LD), 1-6

What's Logic About?

Logical Form

Rules for Reasoning

Weston, 1-2

WEEK 2

Sept 6, 8

bring in an example of an argument

LD, 7-20

Sentence Forms

Symbols and Operations

Tables for Basic Operations

WEEK 3

Sept 13

LD, 20-30

Proofs Using Truth Tables

Sept 15

LD, 31-32

Quiz

PROPOSITIONAL LOGIC

WEEK 4

Sept 20, 22

Chap 2, LD, 33-48 A Formal System

Weston, 37-47

Deductive Arguments

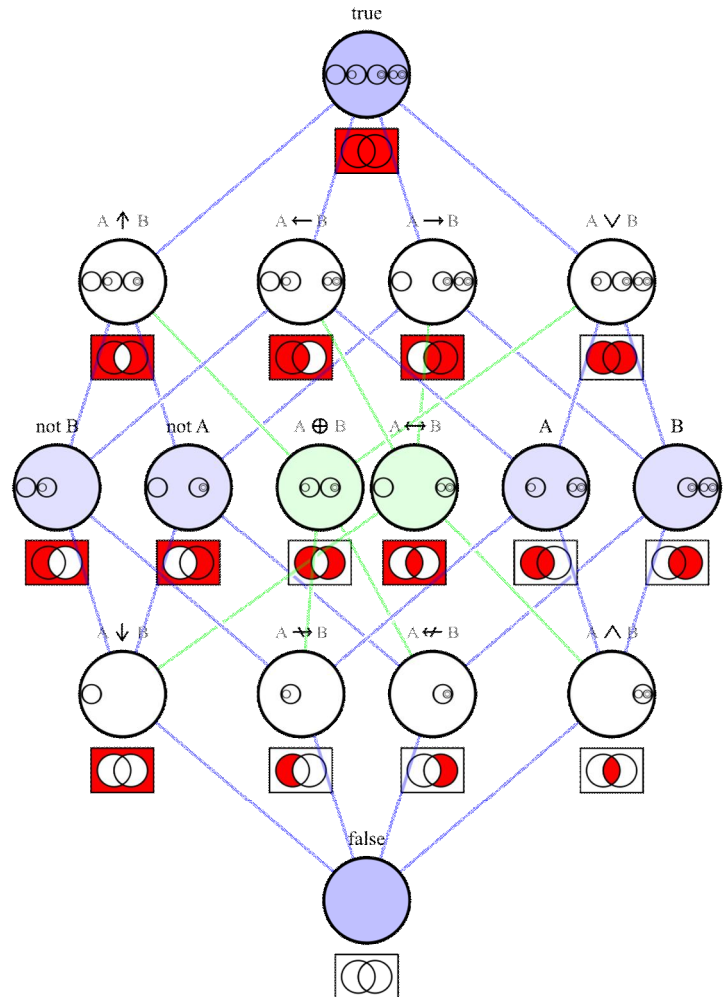
WEEK 5

Sept 27, 29

LD, 48-59

Laws

Quiz



INDUCTION

FALLACIES, PARADOXES, AND REVELATIONS

WEEK 6

Oct 4

Chap 5, LD, 145-58

The Probability Fallacy
Weak and Flawed Reasoning

Oct 6

Weston, 1-36

Short Arguments: Some General Rules
Generalizations
Arguments by analogy
Sources
Arguments about Causes



WEEK 7

Oct 11

Weston, 49-79

Extended Arguments
Argumentative Essays
Oral Arguments
Some Common Fallacies

Oct 13

MICRO-ESSAY 2 My Favorite Fallacies+

using the list and descriptions of fallacies provided, identify your favorite fallacy (the one you use most often) as well as least favorite fallacy (the one that irks you the most)

WEEK 8

Oct 18

LD, 158-70

Simple Paradoxes

Skills Assessment 2, transitional thoughts/reality check

Oct 20

LD, 170-78

Classical Paradoxes

Russell and Gödel

WEEK 9

Oct 25

LD, 179-180

Quiz

STRATEGIES FOR PROOFS

Oct 27

Chap 6, LD, 181-94

How Does a Theory Evolve?
Theorems

WEEK 10

Nov 1

LD, 194-213

Techniques
Quiz

PROSPECTUS AND OUTLINE DUE

THE LOGIC OF SETS

Nov 3

Chap 8, LD, 239-52

Set Fundamentals
Venn Diagrams

WEEK 11

Nov 8

LD, 253-62

Set Intersection
Set Union

Nov 10

LD, 263-64

Quiz

REALITY REMYSTIFIED

WEEK 12

Nov 15

Chap 10, LD, 297-318

The Illogic of Time
The Illogic of Matter and Space

FIRST DRAFT DUE

Nov 17

LD, 319-30

The Illogic of Chaos

APPLICATION OF SKILLS: ANALYSIS AND COMPOSITION

WEEK 13

Nov 22

The Logic of Buddhism
The Twofold Truth

WEEK 14

Nov 29

Literary Theory
David S. Reynolds,
%Rescuing the Real Uncle Tom,+
NYTimes, June 14, 2011

Dec 1

Scientific Research
Cordelia Fine, %Biased But Brilliant,+
NYTimes, July 31, 2011

WEEK 15

Dec 6

Politics and Ideology
George Orwell, %a Front of Your Nose,+
London Tribune, March 22, 1946

Dec 8

Skills Assessment 3, final thoughts

Review and Overview

FINAL DRAFT DUE

Dec 13 (section 1)
Dec 15 (section 2)

Good prose is like a windowpane.



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