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


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)
   ëWhy I Writeë (due Sept 1)
   ëMy Favorite Fallaciesë (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, ëRescuing the Real Uncle Tomë
      Cordelia Fine, ëBiased But Brilliantë
      George Orwell, ëIn Front of Your Noseë
      (50 points each)

   final reseached essay, your response to George Orwell, ëWhy I Writeë 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)

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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 is 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

Dec 1
Scientific Research

WEEK 15

Dec 6 Politics and Ideology
George Orwell, "In 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)