

Critical Thinking (Prospective Syllabus)

Course Goal

By the end of the semester, you will be able to *think critically*:

- * identify arguments, as well as their conclusions, premises, and assumptions
- * recognize patterns of inference, both valid and invalid; and,
- * present a persuasive argumentative case for your opinions

Texts

[WA] Morrow, D. and A. Weston. *A Workbook for Arguments*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2011.

Assignments and Grading

- 10% In-Class Activities
- 20% Weekly Exercises
- 20% Exam 1
- 20% Exam 2
- 30% Final Project [students will be required to write an argumentative essay and present it to the class; audience members will also be graded on their question-asking]

Schedule of Readings [each "*" corresponds to 1-3 class sessions]

Arguments in the wild

- * WA Introduction

Identifying Arguments

- * WA Chapter 1
- * Plato, *Crito* [selection]

Defining our terms

- * WA Appendix II
- * Plato, *Meno* [selection]

Types of Arguments and Inference

- * WA Chapter 2: Generalizations
- * WA Chapter 3: Arguments by Analogy
- * WA Chapter 5: Arguments about Causes

Exam #1

Deductive Arguments

- * WA Chapter 6, sections 22-28

Extended Arguments

- * WA Chapter 7

Exam #2

Crafting Arguments

- * WA Chapter 4
- * WA Chapter 8
- * WA Chapter 9

Final Project Work and Presentations