

SYLLABUS, SPRING 2012:
PHIL 102-6: LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING:
DR MOORE

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Office Hours:

- Tuesday 11-12:30
- Wednesday 1:30-2:30
- Thursday 11-1:30
- Also by appointment

What is critical thinking?

It is thinking about thinking. When we evaluate our thinking using *criteria*, we think critically.

Criteria? *Huh????*

The criteria we employ when we thinking critically, are the criteria of logic and good sense. They are the most general and fundamental criteria that thinking must adhere to if it is to qualify as rational.

What will this course do for me?

It won't tell you directly whether our health care system should be reformed or whom to vote for or whether God exists, but it will enable you to spot faulty arguments related to such questions. This can make you smarter. Not smarter in some particular subject, but smarter in

general. You can apply the things you learn here to nearly any subject people talk or write or think about.

What university requirement does the course satisfy?

The course satisfies Chico State's and the California State University System's General Education requirement as a Foundation Course in Area A3. Here is what the course is supposed to do:

In critical thinking (subarea A3) courses, students will understand logic and its relation to language; elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought; and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion. In A3 courses, students will develop the abilities to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas; to reason inductively and deductively; and to reach well-supported factual or judgmental conclusions.

How will I be graded?

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Tests: 35%
- Quizzes: 35%
- Problem sets: 10%
- Homework Exercises 10%
- Final Exam: 10%

What's the difference between quizzes, tests, and problem sets?

Quizzes let us know if you read the assignments. Problem sets are exercises to help you do well on tests. Tests tell us if you understand stuff and can apply it.

How many tests and quizzes and problem sets are there?

A test or quiz or problem set is given each class period. I will do very little lecturing. Mainly we will be doing exercises of various sorts.

Are tests and quizzes announced in advance?

Almost always they are announced one class period in advance. However, we reserve the right to give surprise assessments. Problems sets are not announced in advance.

Makeups? Extra credit? Incompletes? What happens if I am absent?

Find out from another member of the class what you missed.

In a class this size, every day several students are absent for good reasons. We cannot give makeup assignments, because if we gave a makeup for one person with a good reason, we would have to give a makeup to every person with a good reason. That can add up to hundreds of makeups over the course of the semester.

Instead, we ignore your two lowest test scores, your two lowest quiz scores, and your two lowest problem set scores.

We don't have any extra credit assignments to give. Sorry.

We also don't give incompletes except in very unusual circumstances, such as being called to active duty by the U.S. armed forces.

I added late and missed a quiz or test. Will it hurt my grade?

It won't help. Any assessments you have missed will count against the allowance mentioned in the preceding item.

How do I get help?

See "Contact Information" on Home Page

Are there study sessions?

Yes. They will be announced as soon as we can schedule rooms.

Is there online help?

Yes. Interactive quizzes on the reading assignments are available at:

www.mhhe.com/mooreparker10e

Do I need a response card (clicker) for this class?

Yes. You must have a registered response card (clicker), or smart phone or laptop with the appropriate software installed, and registered in the class. You'll need it by the third class period.

What happens if I lose my clicker or it doesn't work right? Can I use somebody else's clicker in an emergency?

If you lose your clicker you will need to obtain a new clicker and register it. A clicker not registered to you won't record scores in your name.

If you forget your clicker or the batteries are dead or it doesn't work you will get a zero for the assessment. **CHECK YOUR CLICKER BEFORE EVERY CLASS TO MAKE SURE IT IS WORKING.** Carry extra batteries and a little screwdriver!

If you use a cell phone or a laptop instead of a clicker, and you have connection problems, you will get a zero for the assessment. That is the disadvantage to using a cell or laptop; network problems are rare, but they seem to happen every other semester or so.

But I don't know anything about clickers!!!!

We do, and we can help you. Please see the documents posted elsewhere on the homepage.

Can I take a test or quiz or problem set for my friend?

No. This is cheating. Attempting it would be unwise. We have eagle eyes and we will turn you in to Student Judicial Affairs. It will go on your university record. Student Judicial Affairs can expel you from the university for cheating.

What about the text?

It's Moore and Parker, Critical Thinking, 10th edition. Yes, you will need the 10th edition. Your options are explained in a separate document.

When is the final?

Tuesday of finals week, in PAC 144 at 12 noon. We don't give the final at another time.

How do I know how I am doing?

Check Blackboard. Your grades are posted. It is easy to calculate how you are doing using the formula given above. You must let us know within two weeks after an assessment if there was a mistake in your grade.

Do you do grade checks?

As best we can; but you can figure out your own grade using the formula above.

Are your slides available online?

No.

Do you really call on people at random?

Yes.

How can I do well in this course?

- Don't miss class.
- Study for the quizzes really, really hard. The quizzes are where most people have trouble.
- Bring your response device to every class and make sure it is working before class begins.