

PHILOSOPHY 60: LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING

REG ID 64172 W 6:15PM GE 121

T. LE
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to develop critical thinking and writing skills using a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional approach, through the examination of various literatures on significant issues and through the completion of various persuasive-analytical writing assignments. The first part of the course will cover inductive arguments, deductive arguments, fallacies, credibility, and the media. The second part of the course will be the analysis and critique of various philosophical, psychological, social, and political literatures.

Course recommendations: English 1A, experience in writing research papers utilizing peer-reviewed journal articles, and the ability to do well on written exams. Lacking any of these can result in letter grades of C, D, or F, in which case, the student agrees not to hold the instructor accountable for these personal inadequacies.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Identify the relationship between language and logic.
- B. Distinguish fact from opinion and knowledge from belief.
- C. Distinguish between inductive and deductive arguments and use correctly the various forms of each.
- D. Analyze and evaluate increasingly complex arguments from a variety of oral and written sources, and examine their assumptions and implications.
- E. Construct well organized, sustained written arguments advocating ideas and positions.
- F. Write a progression of substantial essays demonstrating an increasingly sophisticated use of structure, coherence and style.

GRADING (1000 POINTS)

Reflection Papers.....	10% (100 points)
Term Paper.....	40% (400 points)
Exams.....	50% (500 points)

GRADE SCALE

- 90 – 100%: A
- 80 – 89%: B
- 70 – 79%: C
- 60 – 69%: D
- 00 – 59%: F

Grading is based upon an in-depth understanding of the course material and the display of critical thinking and insight. Students achieving an A in this course come to class on a regular basis, do all of the assigned readings

including supplemental readings, doing all of the assigned reflection papers, doing well on all exams, completing a well written, longer term paper, and asking questions if you do not understand the material covered in this course. All of this requires that you have a great degree of academic discipline as well as self-discipline, mental maturity, and a relatively stable personal life. If you want to do well, then it is your responsibility to have all or most of these conditions met prior to enrollment in this course.

Your grade for this course is final and will not be changed unless under justifiable circumstances as described in the Academic Policy. It is not permissible to turn in late assignments or make up assignments to increase your final grade once grades are submitted. Your grade is not negotiable if it is the result of your own incompetence. Receiving letter grades of D or F means that you will have to retake this course for it to count towards your GE and/or transfer requirements.

DO NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR FINAL GRADE. WHAT YOU EARN IS WHAT YOU DESERVE. IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL, IT IS YOUR OWN FAULT. IF YOU WANT TO DO WELL, YOU MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SUCCEED.

TEXTBOOKS

Le, Trung. *Essays on Ethics, Government, and Economy*. Le Foundation Press, 2011.

Le, Trung. *Critical Thinking: Supplemental Material*. Le Foundation Press, 2011.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Modern Language Association of America, 2003.

For in-classroom delivery, my book entitled *Essays on Ethics, Government, and Economy* and the course supplement can be purchased at <http://www.Le-Foundation.org>.

For mail order, the book can also be purchased at <http://www.Amazon.com> and <http://www.LuLu.com> and the supplement can be purchased only on <http://www.LuLu.com> only. Please note that purchases made on LuLu are print-on-demand and cannot be refunded.

The *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* can be purchased at your local book store and also online.

A variety of texts are made available on my web site. There are some password protected PDF files. Enter “phil” to open these password protected documents.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is your responsibility to read and to understand the Academic Dishonesty Policy, especially the section on plagiarism. Plagiarism is when you use the works of others and claiming it as your own. All works belonging to another person must be cited. Cheating or plagiarism will result in academic and/or administrative sanctions. The student will normally receive a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, be placed on disciplinary probation, or will be expelled. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT CHEATING OR PLAGIARIZING, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE. ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE MEANS YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO UPHOLD THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE.**

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND ENROLLMENT

Students are expected to read the material, do homework assignments, attend class, and be prepared to engage in classroom discussion because these are crucial elements of the learning process. You cannot participate if you do not attend, therefore you must attend if you do not want to be penalized for this. Attendance will be taken on random days. If I pass out a roll sheet, it is your responsibility to make sure that your name is on the roll sheet by the end of the class session, otherwise you will lose points. **POOR ATTENDANCE WILL UNDERMINE YOUR FINAL GRADE BY A MAXIMUM OF 100 POINTS (OR 10%).**

If you decide to stop attending class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to drop from the course by the official W deadline. You may receive an F for the course if you fail to do this. I will not give anyone an

INCOMPLETE grade unless under justifiable circumstances as described in the College Policy and Procedures. I may decide to drop students who are deemed inactive (those not attending or not doing homework assignments).

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO ENROLL IN THIS COURSE. DO NOT ENROLL IN THIS COURSE IF YOU ARE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT LEARNING. ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE MEANS YOU ADHERE TO THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT LISTED IN THIS SYLLABUS AND IN THE COLLEGE POLICY.

EXAMS (500 POINTS)

There are three (3) exams. Exam 1 is worth 100 points, and exams 2 and 3 are worth 200 points each. There are no make-up exams unless you have a good excuse (e.g., being extremely ill, the death of a family member, or other events that would significantly impair your ability to take the exam). These or any other impairing events will require written evidence (e.g., a doctor's note, hospital discharge papers) that the actual event had occurred.

TERM PAPER (400 POINTS)

You are required to a term paper consisting of 3,000 words (approximately 10 pages) that critically analyzes a specific theme in the course. Well written papers contain a comprehensive literature review, critical analysis and critical insight. It is your responsibility to possess adequate term paper writing skills prior to enrolling in this course. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to teach you how to write since this is not an English composition course.

YOU MUST USE AT LEAST 3 PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND 3 BOOKS. Failure to use the minimum required resources will lead to a maximum grade of B- (80%). Journals can be using the journal database via the college's library web site by clicking on "Article Databases".

All term papers must be approved by writing a term paper proposal. A term paper outline is required and is due no later than one week prior to the term paper due date. Failure to comply to these requirements will lead to a lower grade.

All term papers must be turned in by the due date. Late term papers will incur a severe penalty of 10-20%, which can lead to a non-passing grade.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

1. Your paper topic must be approved, otherwise you will not receive credit. Your term paper must be your original work. Proper citation must be provided to give credit to any works that is not yours.
2. Provide at least 3 quotes from each of the 3 journal articles and each of the 3 books required. Any given quote must not be longer than 5 sentences. Excessive use of quotes is not permissible and can result to a grade deduction.
3. Provide a thesis and arguments to support your thesis.
4. Incorporate various authors from our course.
5. The word requirement is 3,000 words, or approximately 10 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12).
6. Include a cover page (title, name, class, e-mail, phone number, and mailing address if you want your paper back)
7. Attach a copy of the first page of each journal article to the end of your term paper.
8. Use MLA style footnotes to cite your sources.

REFLECTION PAPERS (100 POINTS)

You will be asked to write two reflection papers (2 – 3 pages each, double-spaced) throughout the term to assess and critique the student's writing skills and reading comprehension in preparation of the 10-page term paper. It is vital that the student score at least 70% on these assignments before proceeding towards the completion of the term paper. Failure to score at least 70% on these assignments implies that the student may not have adequate writing skills and reading comprehension skills to successfully complete the term paper with letter grades of A, B, or C and thus can potentially lead to a final course grade of C, D, or F. In the event that this occurs, the student agrees to not hold the instructor liable for receiving a non-desirable grade (B, C, D, or F) on the term paper and/or as a final grade. More information about this assignment will be given in class.

DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)

Students with learning disabilities should register with the Disability Support Program (DSP) located in the Student Center (SC 106) and inform me of their disability in order to provide for special accommodations such as a time extension on exams. The DSP phone number is 288-3746.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREEMENT

- a. This is a binding agreement between the instructor, Trung Le, and the student listed below.
- b. Successful completion of this course requires a great deal of reading, motivation, discipline, and hard work. Therefore, this course is not meant for everyone. It is your responsibility to determine whether you can successfully complete this course with a passing grade (A, B, or C) early in the term. If you determine that it is not your style of learning, then it is your responsibility to drop from the course as soon as possible, and no later than the W deadline. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to drop active students who may receive a non-passing grade or other undesirable grades due to the student's personal academic or personal inadequacies.
- c. The student agrees to attend and participate in this class on a regular basis, complete reading assignments, homework assignments, the term paper, and all exams. The student understands that he or she must satisfactorily complete all course requirements at the 70% grade level to pass the course with a "C" letter grade or better.
- d. The student will respect every other student, including his or her thoughts, beliefs, and background during various online discussions. It is permissible to criticize the ideas of others in a constructive manner, but it is not permissible to put anyone down for their ideas.
- e. The student will come to class on time. If the student comes to class late, he or she agrees to come in quietly and I will try to find a seat closest to the door. The student will not leave early because this is extremely rude and it will disturb others. However, if this is necessary, the student will sit by the door and leave quietly.
- f. The student will not pack up his or her things until the instructor has concluded the lecture or discussion because doing so may disrupt the concentration of others and the flow of the lecture or discussion.
- g. The student will not dominate the class lectures or class discussions with my own opinions and/or questions. Doing so will disrupt the flow of the lecture and inhibits others from asking questions or making comments.
- h. The student will turn his or her cellular phone off or put it in silent mode so that it will not disturb others. If the student receives an extremely urgent phone call, then he or she will quietly leave the classroom to take the call outside so that it will not disturb others. The student will not play games or send text messages on his or her cellular phone. The student understands that doing so is disrespectful and it is not appropriate in the classroom. Failure to do any of the above can result in the instructor taking away the student's cell phone and holding it for a period of one or more weeks before returning it to the student.
- i. The student will not bring a laptop or any similar devices to class because of excessive abuse from other students in the past.
- j. The student will not do assignments from other classes while being inside this class.
- k. The student will not sleep in class and agrees that it is his or her responsibility to get enough rest the evening prior to class in order to be alert the entire classroom time.
- l. The student is responsible for his or her failure of success. Being successful means putting in a lot of time and effort into the course and it means willingness to do whatever it takes (within the boundaries of the law) to succeed. Students are held responsible for personal inadequacies, weaknesses, situations, and other variables that may contribute to a non-passing grade or a grade not desirable by the student, and that the student will not hold the instructor responsible for these conditions. It is the responsibility of the student to drop from this course if he or she deems that these personal variables will contribute to a non-passing or undesirable grade.
- m. The student will not complain about the final grade received in the course. Negotiating for a higher grade is also not permissible. The student understands that the final grade is final and cannot be changed unless there was a miscalculation error. Outstanding assignments and exams cannot be turned in for credit after final grades are submitted. The student will contact the Dean of Social Science if he or she wishes to challenge the instructor's grading methodology, and must do so within 30 days from the end of the term.

- n. The student understands that any form of plagiarism is not permissible and that it will lead to a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. Administrative sanctions may also follow depending upon the severity of the plagiarism.
- o. It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course if he or she feels that he or she cannot pass the course with a satisfactory letter grade of C or above. Failure to do so may result in a non-passing grade for the course. The student agrees to not hold the instructor responsible for a non-passing grade (D or F) or an undesirable grade (C or B) if the student fails to withdraw from this course by the official W deadline.
- p. Enrolling and staying enrolled in this course entails the agreement to all of the above policies, including the campus wide academic policy of San Jose City College.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

College: San Jose City College Course: Phil 60 Term: Spring, 2012 Instructor: T. Le Date: _____

ABRIDGED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

UNIT 1: LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING

WEEK 01 (FEB. 1): INTRODUCTION; DEDUCTIVE LOGIC AND FORMAL FALLACIES

WEEK 02 (FEB. 8): INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS AND INFORMAL FALLACIES; PERSUASIVE WRITING

WEEK 03 (FEB. 15): TERM PAPER WRITING WORKSHOP; LOGIC EXAM

UNIT 2: ISSUES ON HAPPINESS, ETHICS, RELIGION, AND HUMAN NATURE

WEEK 04 – 05 (FEB. 22, 29): IS HAPPINESS OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

WEEK 06 – 07 (MAR. 7, 14): IS MORALITY OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

WEEK 08 – 09 (MAR. 21, 28): DOES GOD EXIST? WHY DOES GOD ALLOW FOR SO MUCH EVIL AND SUFFERING?

WEEK 10 (APR. 4): NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11 (APR. 11): EXAM 2

UNIT 3: ISSUES IN HUMAN NATURE, POLITICS, AND ECONOMY

WEEK 12 (APR. 18): IS THERE A HUMAN NATURE?

WEEK 13 (APR. 25): IS DEMOCRACY THE IDEAL POLITICAL SYSTEM; IS CENTRALIZATION OR DE-CENTRALIZATION A BETTER FORM OF GOVERNANCE?

WEEK 14 – 15 (MAY 2, 9): ARE CAPITALISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND AMERICAN CONSUMER SOCIETY DETRIMENTAL?

WEEK 16 (MAY 16): REVIEW

WEEK 17 (MAY 23): EXAM 3

DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

UNIT 1: LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING

WEEK 01 (FEB. 1): DEDUCTIVE LOGIC AND FORMAL FALLACIES

- Deductive logic and formal fallacies
 - Affirming the antecedent
 - Denying the consequent
 - Hypothetical syllogism
 - Affirming the consequent
 - Denying the antecedent

WEEK 02 (FEB. 8): INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS, INFORMAL FALLACIES, AND ADVERTISING

- Inductive and informal fallacies
 - Begging the question
 - False dilemma
 - Attack on the person
 - Appeal to authority
 - Appeal to tradition
 - Appeal to ignorance
 - Hasty generalization
 - False cause
 - Appeal to emotion

WEEK 03 (FEB. 15): TERM PAPER WRITING WORKSHOP AND LOGIC PRACTICE EXAM

WEEK 04 (FEB. 22): LOGIC EXAM

UNIT 2: ISSUES ON HAPPINESS, ETHICS, RELIGION, AND HUMAN NATURE

WEEK 05 (FEB. 29): IS HAPPINESS OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Le, “Aristotle on Eudaimonia in the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I, II, X”
- Le, “Aristotle on Relationships in the *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VIII, IX

WEEK 06 (MAR. 7): IS HAPPINESS OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE? *CONTINUED*

- Eric Weiner, selections from *The Geography of Bliss*
- Dalai Lama, selections from *The Art of Happiness*
- REFLECTION PAPER 1 DUE: In your opinion, is happiness objective or subject? Bring in supporting arguments to support your position.

WEEK 07 (MAR. 14): IS MORALITY OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

- Basic moral theories
- Ethical Dilemmas
- TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

WEEK 08 (MAR. 21): IS MORALITY OBJECTIVE OR SUBJECTIVE?

- John Stuart Mill
- Immanuel Kant
- Le, “The Search for Guiding Principles through Natural Law Theory”
- Le, “Mill and Kant on Morality”
- REVIEW FOR EXAM 2

WEEK 09 (MAR. 28): EXAM 2

WEEK 10 (APR. 4): NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11 (APR. 11): DOES GOD EXIST? EXAMING ARGUMENTS FOR GOD

- Existence of God in *Doing Philosophy*
- The Problem of Evil and the Existence of God in *Doing Philosophy*
- Dalai Lama, “Buddhism, Christianity, and the Prospects for World Religion,” in *Philosophy of Religion*
- Stephen Jay Gould, “Non-overlapping Magisteria,” in *Philosophy of Religion*
- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*
- Cosmological, teleological, and ontological arguments, and Pascal’s Wager

WEEK 12 (APR. 18): WHY DOES GOD ALLOW FOR SO MUCH EVIL AND SUFFERING?

- REFLECTION PAPER 2 DUE: Do you believe religion is overall beneficial or detrimental to humanity? Bring in supporting arguments into your response.
- Ontological defense, knowledge defense, free-will defense, finite-God defense

UNIT 3: HUMAN NATURE, POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND ECONOMY

WEEK 13 (APR. 25): IS THERE A HUMAN NATURE?

- Plato, *Republic*
- Le, “Plato on Human Nature in the Republic”
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- Carol Gilligan, “In a Different Voice” in *Ethical Theory*
- Nancy Holmstrom, “Do Women Have a Human Nature?” in *The Study of Human Nature*
- Rachel Simmons, *Odd Girl Out*
- Michael Thomson, *Raising Cain: Exploring the Inner Lives of Boys*
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 26: LAST DAY TO DROP WITH “W”.** ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS AFTER THIS DEADLINE MUST BE GIVEN A LETTER GRADE. ALL STUDENTS RECEIVING LESS THAN A 70% AVERAGE ON PAST ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO WITHDRAW FROM THIS COURSE IN ORDER TO AVOID A NON-PASSING GRADE OR AN UNDESIRABLE GRADE. IN THE EVENT THAT THE STUDENT DECIDES NOT TO WITHDRAW AND RECEIVES A NON-PASSING OR AN UNDESIRABLE GRADE AT THE END OF THE TERM, THE STUDENT WILL NOT HOLD THE INSTRUCTOR ACCOUNTABLE AND THAT CHALLENGING, DISPUTING, OR NEGOTIATING FOR A HIGHER GRADE IS NOT PERMISSIBLE.

WEEK 14 (MAY 2): IS CAPITALISM BETTER THAN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM?

- Jeffrey Sachs, the *End of Poverty*
- Le, “Economic Liberalization in Vietnam”
- Le, “Venezuela and State Welfare”

WEEK 15 (MAY 9): ARE GLOBALIZATION AND CONSUMER SOCIETY BENEFICIAL OR DETRIMENTAL?

- TERM PAPER DUE; LATE PAPERS ARE SUBJECT TO A 10- 20% PENALTY
- Benjamin Barber, *Consumed*
- Benjamin Barber, *Jihad vs. Mc World*
- *Affluenza: The All Consuming Epidemic*

WEEK 16 (MAY 16): REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM, PRACTICE TEST

- Review for the final exam
- Student meetings to discuss overall class performance / grade.

WEEK 17 (MAY 23): EXAM 3