

Philosophy 4: Critical Thinking
De Anza College
Online

I. Instructor Information

Instructor: Rich Booher

Office: F21o

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Office phone: (408) 864-8524

Office hour: MTWTh, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; other times available by appointment.

II. Texts

1. William Hughes and Jonathan Lavery, *Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills. Concise Edition* (Peterborough: Broadview, 2015) [Abbreviated as CT on the reading schedule.]
2. Other readings will be made available online via Canvas. You can access Canvas by visiting <https://deanza.instructure.com/>

III. Course Description

In this class, we will examine the nature of arguments and reasoning. You will learn how to analyze and critically evaluate the arguments of others, as well as how to formulate successful arguments of your own. This will involve becoming acquainted with the nature of deductive and inductive reasoning, which includes mastering the evaluative criteria for each kind of argument. We will consider some obstacles to effective reasoning, such as informal fallacies and implicit bias. We will also work on applying the skills learned in this class to a selection of interesting issues through an examination of recent topical articles.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify and analyze a variety of rhetorical and argumentative techniques
- Analyze and assess a variety of rhetorical and argumentative texts
- Develop original and complex arguments
- Demonstrate an application of the tools of reasoning to personal actions and decisions

V. Course Requirements

Reading: You must read the assigned readings. These readings will be the basis of most of the work that will be required of you in the course. It may be necessary to read some assignments more than once, so make sure you give yourself time to do this.

Short Exams: You will have a short exam every week. Each exam will be based on the assigned readings and work for that week. The format of these exams will be multiple choice or short answer.

Final Exam: There will be a longer and more comprehensive final exam that you will have to complete during the final exam week. This exam will be cumulative.

Discussion Board Participation: Every week you will be required to participate in a guided activity on the course Discussion Board. Instructions, including due dates, will be posted on the 'Announcements' section at the beginning of each week of class, and also in the 'Module' section for that week of the course.

Grading: Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Short Exams: 40%

Final Exam: 40%

Discussion Board Participation: 20%

GRADE SCALE: A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-60), F (59-0)

VI. Other Information

Gender Pronouns: By default, I use a gender-neutral singular pronoun to refer to students: they/them/their. If you have a different pronoun that you prefer, I will happily use it. You can inform me of this either in person or by email.

Missed Assignments or Exams: Missed exams or assignments will not be accepted except in cases of demonstrable emergency. If you know in advance that you will not be in class on the date of an exam, you must speak with the instructor to schedule an alternative in advance of the exam. If there is an emergency or issue you are facing, please do not hesitate to speak with me. We can usually reach a satisfactory solution, as long as you communicate with me.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in the course must be your own. If you are found to plagiarize, you will receive a 0 on the plagiarized assignment.

Disability Services: If you have a disability and are entitled to accommodations, please let me know. If you need more information about services for students with disabilities, please contact De Anza's Disability Support Programs & Services: <http://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>

Student Success Center: The Student Success Center offers free tutoring (funded in part by your DASB fees) for many De Anza classes. Visit <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess> for our hours and information about workshops, group, drop-in and online tutoring, and to apply for

(limited) weekly individual tutoring. Or stop by in person to check out our fun and welcoming centers.

VII. Course Schedule (tentative: any changes to the schedule will be announced in class)

September 25-28 Introduction	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> (Canvas)
October 2-5 Arguments: their character and purpose	CT, pp. 1-15
October 9-12 Meaning and Definitions	1. CT, pp. 16-31 2. David Foster Wallace, "Tense Present"
October 16-19 Purposes and Methods of Definition	CT, pp. 31-45
October 23-26 Clarifying Meaning	CT, pp. 47-67
October 30-November 2 Reconstructing Arguments	1. CT, pp. 67-88 2. Rebecca Kukla, "Should All Women Not on Birth Control Give Up Drinking?"
November 6-9 Assessing Truth Claims	CT, pp. 89-125
November 13-16 Assessing Relevance and Adequacy	CT, pp. 127-59
November 20-23 Deductive Arguments	CT, pp. 161-77
November 27-30 Inductive Arguments	1. CT, pp. 179-97
December 4-7 Strategies for Critique	1. CT, pp. 199-207
December 15	Final Exam: To be taken by the end of the day on Friday, December 15.