



Syllabus for Philosophy 1 (Critical Thinking)

Course Information

Semester & Year: Summer 2022

Course ID & Section #: PHIL-1-V4006

Instructor's name: Tim Bos

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office hours: By Appointment

Phone number: 510-325-0446

Email address: tim-bos@redwoods.edu

Catalog Description

A study of thinking and its qualities with a focus on effective decision making and practical reasoning skills. Students will practice evaluating arguments, gathering and analyzing information, and reasoning to justify a conclusion. The course examines the uses of language, formal and informal fallacies, argument forms, deductive and inductive logic, and methods for evaluating arguments.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and evaluate complex arguments about philosophical, cultural, or aesthetic issues from a variety of oral and written sources.
2. Construct a logical, coherent argument with a justified conclusion.

Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Practice Assignments: 20%*

Online Quizzes: 20%**

Online Discussion Participation: 20%***

Midterm: 20%

Final: 20%

*I will provide weekly instruction videos with integrated practice assignments. You get a guaranteed 100% just for turning in these assignments (i.e., mistakes don't matter when we're doing class work), but you will have to actually watch the videos to do the work. Don't wait too long – the videos disappear after a week.

**The quizzes will be open-book and taken online at your own leisure. Each quiz will be up for a week. You can take a quiz a second time if desired, and the highest grade will automatically be recorded.

***Discussion participation will also get you a guaranteed 100%, provided you do the following each week:

- (1) Post a substantive answer to the discussion prompt (it has to be obvious that you read the assigned reading and that you really thought about the topic).
- (2) Post at least one thoughtful reply to a peer's post.
- (3) Reply to me if I respond to your post.
- (4) Complete (1) and (2) within a week of the Discussion prompt appearing on Canvas.

Please note: Late work will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Introduction to the Course

Required Textbook: *The Power of Critical Thinking*, 6th ed. (Lewis Vaughn)

Description of the Course: A Critical Thinking class is supposed to teach you a set of skills and strategies that maximize your chances of acquiring knowledge, and minimize your chances of acquiring false beliefs. A main theme in the course will be the idea of an *inference*. Whenever you come to a new conclusion on the basis of information, you are making an inference. You can make a correct inference, or an incorrect inference. Think of Critical Thinking as the study of inferences, where the goal, of course, is to get better at making good inferences and recognizing bad inferences. When you make good inferences, and avoid bad inferences, you have a higher chance of learning objective truths about the world, and you also minimize the risk of being tricked into believing false things. Another way of understanding Critical Thinking is to think of it as the study of proper *reasoning*. Human beings have the remarkable capacity to think logically about the world around them. We make observations with the use of our senses, and then we draw general conclusions about the nature of reality on the basis of those observations (i.e., we make “inferences”). But despite our ability to reason well, we can also reason poorly. Critical Thinking should help you reason well, as well as teach you how to spot bad reasoning. At the end of the course, the successful student should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- (1) Distinguish between inductive and deductive reasoning.
- (2) Evaluate deductive arguments using both propositional logic (with truth-tables) and categorical logic (with Venn diagrams).
- (3) Differentiate between different types of inductive arguments and be able to evaluate each type.
- (4) Recognize basic fallacies (recognized patterns of faulty reasoning) and rhetorical ploys (nonarguments designed to convince).
- (5) Demonstrate an understanding of the methodology used in science to provide the best available explanations of how reality works.

What to Expect:

I will hold weekly online meetings (using BigBlueButton on CANVAS) to give presentations on the material. I will let you know when these are, but you are not required to attend live. A video of the meeting will become available automatically after the meeting is done. Just make sure to watch it sometime during the week that it becomes available, since CANVAS automatically takes them down after a week. I will have integrated exercises in these presentations. You will turn these in for class credit each week (there will usually be several of these exercise assignments per week). In some cases, you will have to either scan these assignments or take pictures of them in order to turn them in on CANVAS.

That's the only tricky part of the class. For the rest, it's just short weekly quizzes, some discussion posts, a mid-term and a final, all online.

Topic by Week:

WEEK 1 (5/30 – 6/5) Intro to Critical Thinking + Intro to Arguments

WEEK 2 (6/6 – 6/12) Intro to Deductive Reasoning + Intro to Propositional Logic

WEEK 3 (6/13 – 6/19) Propositional Logic

WEEK 4 (6/20 – 6/26) Propositional Logic Continued + Intro to Categorical Logic + Midterm

WEEK 5 (6/27 – 7/3) Categorical Logic

WEEK 6 (7/4 – 7/10) Intro to Inductive Reasoning + Enumerative, Analogical, and Causal Arguments

WEEK 7 (7/11 – 7/17) Argument from Best Explanation

WEEK 8 (7/18 – 7/24) Fallacies + Final

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Summer 2022 Dates (at this link: <https://www.redwoods.edu/admissions/dates>)

- *Classes begin:*
- *Last day to add a class:*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund:*
- *Census date (or 20% into class duration):*
- *Last Day to file P/NP (only courses where this is an option)*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund):*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund):*
- *Final examinations:*
- *Semester ends:*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately*

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://webapps.redwoods.edu/tutorial/>

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones.

Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor <https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu> and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

Del Norte Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information, see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

Eureka Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [campus emergency map](#) for evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information on Public Safety go to the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#). It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods to protect life and property from the effects of emergencies within its own jurisdiction.

In the event of an emergency:

1. Evaluate the impact the emergency has on your activity/operation and take appropriate action.
2. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
3. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111 and inform them of the situation, with as much relevant information as possible.
4. Public Safety shall relay threat information, warnings, and alerts through the Everbridge emergency alert system, Public address system, and when possible, updates on the college website, to ensure the school community is notified.
5. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet, (evacuation to a safe zone, shelter in place, lockdown, assist others if possible, cooperate with First Responders, etc.).
6. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
7. Do not leave campus, unless it is necessary to preserve life and/or has been deemed safe by the person in command.

Klamath Trinity Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the responsibilities of, and procedures used by, the College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to communicate to faculty, staff, students and the general public during an emergency. It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

1. In the event of an emergency, communication shall be the responsibility of the district employees on scene.
 - a. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
 - b. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
 - c. If safe to do so, personnel shall relay threat information, warnings, to ensure the school community is notified.
 - d. Contact 530-625-4821 to notify of situation.
 - e. Contact Hoopa Tribal Education Administration office 530-625-4413
 - f. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111.
2. In the event of an emergency, the responsible district employee on scene will:
 - a. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet.
 - b. Lock all doors and turn off lights if in lockdown due to an active shooter or similar emergency.
 - c. Close all window curtains.
 - d. Get all inside to safe location Kitchen area is best internal location.
 - e. If a police officer or higher official arrives, they will assume command.
 - f. Wait until notice of all is clear before unlocking doors.
 - g. If safe to do so, move to the nearest evacuation point outside building (Pooky's Park), directly behind the Hoopa Tribal Education Building.
 - h. Do not leave site, unless it has been deemed safe by the person in command. Student Support Services (required for online classes)

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook award, career academic and personal counseling, school supplies, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821