Nashville State Community College
English, Humanities, and Creative Technologies
Philosophy

Master Course Syllabus
UPDATED September 2022
Select One Below
2023 Fall Term – Full 15-Week Term
2023 First 7-Week Term
2023 Second 7-Week Term

PHIL 1000 – Critical Thinking in the 21st Century

Instructors, please use this template to add and enhance the information for your course and course policies. Please do not delete the headings but instead address your own policies. You can add more headings and information if needed. **Please maintain accessibility standards and delete or revise RED text before adding the syllabus to your course.**

The purpose of the syllabus is to inform you how this course is organized, what the expectations are, and how you will be graded. In addition, there is important information about how the college will operate during severe weather and how the college will communicate with you. The syllabus is not a contract. Instead, it is meant to help you succeed in this course. If any of the content changes during the course term, you will be notified.

Course information:

Course Title: Critical Thinking in the 21st Century
Credits: 3hr.
Class Hours: 3hr.

Course Description:

An introduction to the elements of critical thinking. Topics include recognizing key features of deductive and inductive arguments; evaluating arguments in terms of their strength, validity, and soundness; and recognizing various logical fallacies. Source texts are drawn from a variety of cultures and historical periods, and include ideas applicable to current events and students' life experiences. Prerequisite(s): Level 1 placement in English and Level 2 placement in Reading or concurrent enrollment in READ 0815 - Reading Support Note: PHIL 1000 meets the general education requirement for Humanities.

The aim of the course is to facilitate students' understanding of arguments and their components. Furthermore, students are introduced to the processes governing logical reasoning and taught how to interpret and evaluate the quality of reasoning behind arguments, interpretations, and beliefs. Finally, students are taught cognitive and logical biases that can suffuse human thinking while engaging in reasoning about the multicultural world.

Instructor Information:

Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:
Instructor Zoom Room link:

Class Session Zoom Link Information (if virtual):

Course Delivery Method
- **Online:** Course is fully online (**asynchronous**) and has no scheduled on-campus meeting requirements. It is a fifteen-week course.

Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:

Textbook(s): Brooke Noel Moore & Richard Parker, *Critical Thinking*. 12th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2017 is located within D2L Brightspace.

ISBN: 978-0-07-803828-0

Reference Materials:

Supplies:

Once enrolled, all students should verify that they have the correct textbook and materials information by consulting the D2L/NS Online shell for the course. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or accesscenter@nscc.edu.

Digital Course Materials: These ensure you pay less for your course materials and have easy access through D2L throughout the term. When you registered for this course, the charge for these materials appeared on your account. If you decide you do not want to purchase the course materials embedded in NS Online, you can opt out of the program **until the end of the second week of classes**. If you opt out, you will be responsible for purchasing the required course materials on your own. For more information, please visit www.nscc.edu/dcm.

Honors Option: Honors credit is available in some classes. If you are interested in participating in the Honors Program, please see your instructor within the first four weeks of class.

Course Outcomes: At the end of the term, this is what you should know and/or be able to do:

By the end of this course, the student will be able to

- demonstrate an understanding of the importance of critical thinking.
- distinguish arguments from nonarguments.
- distinguish explanations and justifications from arguments.
- distinguish reasoning from pseudo reasoning.
- recognize rhetorical devices.
- evaluate claims.

- distinguish inductive arguments from deductive arguments.
- distinguish valid arguments from invalid arguments.
- distinguish sound arguments from unsound arguments.
- distinguish weak arguments from strong arguments.
- apply recognition of the elements of an argument in constructing inductive and deductive arguments.
- recognize causal arguments.
- evaluate arguments.
- apply argument evaluation skills in moral, legal, and aesthetic reasoning.
- write an analysis of an argumentative essay.

Course Competencies:

Enumerate and explicate the concepts and methods essential to the apprehension, analysis, and generation of arguments in the development of logical strategies for the formulation of beliefs in the multicultural world.

Topics to Be Covered:

Week One: BELIEFS AND CLAIMS

Objective Claims and Subjective Claims

Fact and Opinion

Relativism

Moral Subjectivism

Issues, Arguments, and Cognitive Biases

Truth and Knowledge

Week Two: TWO KINDS OF REASONING

Arguments: General Features

Two Kinds of Arguments

Deductive Arguments

Inductive Arguments

Week Three: CLEAR THINKING, CRITICAL THINKING, AND CLEAR WRITING

Vagueness

Ambiguity

Semantic Ambiguity

Grouping Ambiguity

Syntactic Ambiguity

Credibility of Sources

Week Four: RHETORIC, THE ART OF PERSUASION

    Rhetorical Devices

        Euphemisms and Dysphemisms

    Relevance Fallacies

Weeks Five and Six: INDUCTION FALLACIES

Week Seven: FORMAL FALLACIES AND FALLACIES OF LANGUAGE

Week Eight: DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS 1: CATEGORICAL LOGIC

Weeks Nine and Ten: DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS 2: TRUTH FUNCTIONAL LOGIC

Week Eleven: INDUCTIVE REASONING

Weeks Twelve and Thirteen: MORAL AND LEGAL REASONING

    Value Judgments

    Major Perspectives in Moral Reasoning

    Multicultural Moral Perspectives

Week Fourteen: AESTHETIC REASONING

Course Assessments: The performance assessments will be specified by the instructor teaching the course.

Grading Policy:

The grading policy will be specified by the given instructor.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	88%-100%
B	78%-87%
C	60%-77%
D	50%-59%
F	<49%

FA

If you stop attending class or if you are in an online class and stop submitting assignments, but do not turn in a withdrawal form by the deadline, you are still enrolled in class. You will be given a grade of FA, which means you have failed due to not attending class and not completing your assignments. Please refer to the current academic calendar available on the Nashville State web site, looking for the date that indicates it is the "Last Day to Earn F for Attendance (FA)." If you stop attending your course after this date, you will receive an F.

FN

An FN is awarded if you have never attended your course or done any of the work in an online course.

Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work:

(*Each instructor will provide their own policy*)

Attendance Policy

(*Each instructor will provide their own policy*)

General Policy

- *Assignment tardiness may affect your final grade.*
- *You are responsible for all work/tests that occur during the semester.*
- *If you are not well enough to attend to your assignments in a timely manner, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible before their scheduled due dates.*
    - *If you are unable to notify an instructor, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*
    - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*

Instructor's Policy

The attendance policy for this course is: *(add instructor's attendance policy)*

For financial aid purposes, **attendance** is measured by participation in the course. Instructors can determine your level of participation in several ways. Some of those ways are:
- continued attendance
- participation in on-ground or virtual class sessions
- participating in D2L as prompted
- responding to an instructor's email
- posting to a discussion board
- completing and submitting assignments

Technology Statement

- All classes at the College are web enhanced. "Web enhanced" means that components of the course, such as assignments and online discussions, may be located online in the class D2L/NS Online course shell and used in the course, even if the course meets in a classroom on ground.
- You must have access to a computer and an internet connection to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells.
- You may also be required to use free video conferencing platforms (examples: Zoom, Teams, etc.) for course sessions and meetings.
- You will be responsible for appropriate dress while on video. This means that you are expected to dress as if you were in a classroom.

- You will be responsible for a distraction free environment while on video. This means that the professor and others in the course should not be able to hear noise in your home, such as cell phones, TVs, or barking dogs. The best way to do this is to keep yourself on "mute" until you need to speak.
- You will be responsible for making sure your background is neutral. Keep in mind that students and professors come from all around the world, and you are all a part of our community. Therefore, please avoid having images in your background that may be offensive to your classmates.
- Certain publisher materials, such as textbook figures, may not work on cellphones and may require a laptop or a tablet.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding access to a computer or internet resources, please contact your instructor. Additional information is available on the access to internet and technology website.

Computer Labs

Computers are available for all Nashville State students to use at each campus during open hours. Open computer lab availability may vary from campus to campus.

You should check the NSCC website for current hours of operation.

D2L/NS Online and myNSCC

It is your responsibility to check your email in **both** D2L/NS Online course shells and your @my.nscc.edu (student email) on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and you. You are responsible for the information communicated through these email channels. D2L/NS Online emails contain specific course information and @my.nscc.edu emails contain important information from college offices, such as Financial Aid.

ADA Compliance Statement

If you need accommodations due to a disability, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Access Center. Disabilities for which you can receive accommodations include documented physical, emotional, and/or learning conditions. Nashville State is committed to supporting your success, and we encourage you to get assistance if needed. If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615-353-3363, or e-mail accesscenter@nscc.edu.

Classroom Misconduct

Disruptive conduct is not allowed in the classroom. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents students from learning and interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach. This may change from course to course; therefore, your individual instructors will give you guidance on what qualifies as "disruptive conduct" in their courses. Please review the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy. Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

Academic Misconduct

You have started this academic journey to prepare for a future career. Because of this, it is important that you learn the materials being presented in your courses. For this reason, cheating, in any form, robs

you of your opportunity to learn and master the material that will enable you to succeed in that future career. Nashville State has a clear Academic Misconduct Policy that you are expected to follow. In addition, your instructors will clarify what Academic Misconduct looks like and the consequences for violations in each course that you take. The instructor has the authority to assign an "F" or a "zero" for such violations or for the term grade.

Academic Early Alert System

If you are not doing well in your course, your instructor may send you an Early Alert through your @my.nscc.edu email. This email will go to your academic advisor and Student Success advisor, as well. If you get an Early Alert, contact your instructor immediately. Instructors send these when they want to help you figure out how to get extra support to pass the course. An Early Alert does not mean that you have already failed the course. Rather, it means you are in danger of failing the course if you do not change your learning strategy. Please use an Early Alert to your advantage and as an opportunity to improve your grade.

RAVE Emergency Alert System

You can log in to this free alert system to receive text messages about emergencies related to NSCC campuses through the RAVE app (https://www.getrave.com/login/nscc). The instructions for this are listed below.

- Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address.
- If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select "Forgot your password?" and a new password will be emailed to you.
- Should the RAVE system indicate "user not found", select Register and create your own RAVE account.

Student Wellness

Your well-being is important to us. With this in mind, the college has several resources available to provide support when needed:

- Free tutoring can assist you beyond the classroom to help you make the most of your college education.
- These resources include NSCC email, scheduling, online courses, textbooks, tech check out and support, computer labs on campuses, academic advising, financial advising, COVID-19 information and procedures on campuses.
- Services that help with bus passes, food, childcare, textbooks, housing, financial counseling, personal counseling, suicide prevention, health insurance.

Equity Statement

Nashville State Community College strives to ensure that each student receives what that student needs to be successful, with goals of success beyond the classroom. We understand and practice ideals of equity and inclusion for our students by embracing a full spectrum of experiences, viewpoints, and intellectual approaches in order to overcome barriers to success.

Inclement Weather & Campus Closings

You get notices about campus closings in these places: text messages from RAVE and the Nashville State website. Even when campuses are closed, you are still responsible for completing all assigned work. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor so you do not miss important assignments and due dates, which may change due to the campus closure.

Class Cancellation Policy

Our instructors post messages about cancelling classes in the D2L/NS Online course shells and/or on the classroom door on campus. These messages can be found in the News and Content section or the Email tab in the online shell. Please check these to be sure that you take advantage of opportunities for learning and points toward your grade.