

PHIL 1565 - Critical Thinking

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 11, CRN 41716,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Arnold Smith

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Your instructor holds a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and History (1996) as well as a Master's degree in Philosophy (1999) from Kent State University. They were also awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2010 and a Bhakti Sastri in 2014. They have published the ethics textbook, *The Moral World*, (Cognella, 2014; 2024), as well as articles for *Philosophy Now* and *Back to Godhead*, and presented papers at several conferences. Your instructor has 27 years of teaching experience.

Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall, 407

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-3448

Course Description

1565. Critical Thinking. An examination of the logical skills needed for critical thinking in practical situations. Topics include procedures and guidelines for identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing and eliminating informal fallacies, and writing and critiquing argumentative essays. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	The Critical Thinking Toolkit	Foreman, Fost, and Watson	9780470658697

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Introduction	
Thu	8/27	Foresman, Chapter 1 Blackboard, Chapter 1 notes	Basic Terms and Ideas	Chapter 1 homework assigned (Blackboard)
Tue	9/1	Foresman, Chapter 2 Blackboard, Chapter 2 Part I notes	Working with Arguments I	Chapter 1 homework due before class Homework 2.1 assigned
Thu	9/3	Blackboard, Chapter 2 Part II notes	Working with Arguments II	Homework 2.1 due before class Homework 2.2 and 2.3 assigned
Tue	9/8	Blackboard, Chapter 2 Part III notes	Working with Arguments III	Homework 2.2 and 2.3 due before class Homework 2.4 assigned
Thu	9/10		Definitions Game	In-class activity
Tue	9/15		Exam I Review	
Thu	9/17		Exam I	
Tue	9/22	Foresman, Chapter 3 Blackboard, Chapter 3 Part I notes	Categorical Arguments I	Homework 3.2 assigned
Thu	9/24	Blackboard, Chapter 3 Part II notes	Categorical Arguments II	Homework 3.2 due before class Homework 3.3 assigned
Tue	9/29	Blackboard, Chapter 3 Part III notes	Categorical Arguments III	Homework 3.3 due before class Homework 3.4 and 3.5 assigned



Thu	10/1	Foresman, Chapter 4 Blackboard, Chapter 4 Part I notes	Propositional Arguments I	Homework 3.4 and 3.5 due before class Homework 4.1 and 4.2 assigned
Tue	10/6	Blackboard, Chapter 4 Part II notes	Propositional Arguments II	Homework 4.1 and 4.2 due before class Homework 4.3 assigned
Thu	10/8	Blackboard, Chapter 4 Part III notes	Propositional Arguments III	Homework 4.3 due before class Homework 4.4 assigned
Tue	10/13		Group Work for Presentation A	Homework 4.4 due before class Presentation A assigned. Students must attend to get into groups
Thu	10/15		Group Work for Presentation A	Continue working in groups on Presentation A
Tue	10/20		Presentation A	Groups will make their presentation to the class
Thu	10/22		Exam II Review	
Tue	10/27		Exam II	
Thu	10/29	Foresman, Chapter 5 Blackboard, Chapter 5 Part I notes	Informal Fallacies I	Homework 5.1 A and B assigned
Tue	11/3	Blackboard, Chapter 5 Part II notes	Informal Fallacies II	Homework 5.1 A and B due before class Homework 5.1 C assigned
Thu	11/5	Blackboard, Chapter 5 Part III notes	Informal Fallacies III	Homework 5.1 C due before class Homework 5.2 assigned
Tue	11/10	Blackboard, Chapter 5, Part IV notes	Informal Fallacies IV	Homework 5.2 due before class Homework 5.3 and 5.4 assigned
Thu	11/12	Foresman, Chapter 6 Blackboard, Chapter 6 notes	Induction and Fallacies	Homework 5.3 and 5.4 due before class Homework 6 assigned
Tue	11/17		Group Work for Presentation B	Homework 6 due before class Presentation B assigned. Students must attend to get into groups.
Thu	11/19		Group Work for Presentation B	Continue working in Groups on Presentation B
Tue	11/24		Group Rehearsals	Finish Group work on Presentation B and rehearse performance
Thu	11/26		Thanksgiving	NO CLASS
Tue	12/1		Presentation B	Groups will perform Presentation B in class
Thu	12/3		Exam III Review	
Thu	12/10		Final Exam (Exam III)	10:30=12:30

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.