

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE

Critical Thinking (Philosophy 11)

Class Number: 10136 | Class Dates: January 2, 2019 - February 5, 2019

MoTuWeTh 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM in Room T-1324, LAC Campus, break from 9:05-9:25 AM

Office Hours: By Appointment, and *Encouraged!*

Instructor: Mr. Fike | Email: [lfike@lbcc.edu](mailto:lfike@lbcc.edu), but we will use Canvas Messenger exclusively in this course.  
Personal Website: [www.larryfike.net/critical-thinking](http://www.larryfike.net/critical-thinking)

### **LBCC Course Catalog Description**

This class focuses on the improvement of practical reasoning skills. Students will be required to improve their reasoning skills and will learn to detect and avoid common argument fallacies. Students will develop the knowledge and habits needed to make decisions between conflicting ideas and beliefs. Applications are made to both contemporary and perennial issues, such as current political events, the news media, science vs. pseudoscience and capital punishment.

### **LBCC Statement of Student Learning Outcomes**

- Analyze the components of arguments and types of arguments;
- Distinguish between examples of deductive and inductive arguments;
- Evaluate inductive arguments for strength, cogency, and/or presence of fallacies in speeches or text.

### **LBCC Statement of Course Objectives**

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

- Identify and explain types of premises, statements, and propositions.
- Explain the difference between valid and invalid arguments.
- Explain the difference between sound and unsound arguments.
- Explain the difference between inductive and deductive fallacies.
- Identify and explain the strongest pro and con arguments on a number of contemporary issues.
- Practice many of the basic principles and methods of formal logic.
- Distinguish between examples of valid and invalid arguments.
- Distinguish between examples of sound and unsound arguments.

### **Required Textbook**

Our textbook equivalent consists of Open Educational Resources, or OERs, which are required. This material is located within the Canvas Modules developed specifically for this course and includes readings, videos, and other interactive participation elements. Students gain access to this material by enrolling in this course. No additional fee for these materials is required.

### **Recommended Textbook**

I highly recommend in addition that you purchase a used textbook, but none of is required. One that is easily obtainable is Moore & Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 9th edition. There are newer editions, but they tend to be more expensive. Paul Herrick's *The Many Worlds of Logic* doesn't include pictures, but is very readable and will take you far beyond this course. These and others are all acceptable, and the course is designed so that, in principle, you can complete it successfully with only our textbook equivalent, which consists of Open Educational Resources, or OERs. The Internet, with the many links I provide and the rich resources it contains (provided it is used with discretion), is a fantastic resource. However, there will be many occasions on which having a book for reference may be useful. I have seen textbooks for as little as \$3.49 that will not only provide you with a rich amount of quick-reference information, but that can also provide you with additional exercises when you believe you would benefit by completing them.

## Assessments

1. Three midterm exams: 20% each, with the lowest grade dropped. If you miss an exam for any reason, including emergencies, the miss will constitute your lowest grade. Total = 40%.
2. Homework, group work, quizzes and class participation. You must be in class to earn credit toward this portion of your grade. Total: 20%.
3. Two Letters to the Editor (5% each) and one Op/Ed piece (10%). Total: 20%.
4. Comprehensive final examination: Total: 20%. This grade is not dropped and is in a separate category from Category 1 above.

## Class Meeting Schedule

I have created a tentative Class Meeting Schedule that is included at the end of this syllabus. By "tentative" I mean that while it will serve as a guide, the best way to know *exactly* what we are doing on any given day, is to be in class. Within permissible boundaries, I tend to pace a course as seems best for the individual class.

We have a General Discussion Page on Canvas that you should feel free to use to address questions to the class and to me that pertain directly to the content of the course. It is not intended as a house-keeping page, for which you should turn to your Course Partner instead.

## Emailing Your Instructor

**SEND TO:** Send me a Private Message, initiated by clicking on the "Inbox" on the far left here in Canvas.

**SUBJECT LINE IDEAL:** STUDENT Last Name, First Name, Course Number, College, What You Are Writing About

**BODY OF MESSAGE:** Be as specific as possible. Cut-and-paste relevant material if it will help you to be more specific and consequently will help your instructor to be more helpful. Remember that your success in this course is the goal of all communications between you and your instructor. Mastery of course *content* is your instructor's fundamental concern. He acts as a trail guide.

## Submitting Work Electronically

**FILE NAMING:** Please be specific in the naming of your files. By "files," I mean those you save on your own computer and then upload onto Canvas.

Good examples of file names:

- 180107 Gonzales Juanita PHIL 11 Online 50734 LBCC Extra Credit #1
- LBCC PHIL 11 Online 50734 Gonzales Juanita Letter to the Editor #2?
- Gonzales Juanita Op-Ed Online 50734 LBCC 180107

Because your instructor sometimes has in excess of 200 students at one time, it is important that you follow something very close to this format. The above are good examples of how you would name actual files that you save on your own computer before you send them to Mr. Fike. "180107" stands for "January 7, 2018): year, month, then day of the month. If you use this on various of your own record-keeping tasks, you will find that it is almost universally the best way to keep things organized chronologically.

## Attendance

Attendance is required. Please let me know as soon as possible if you know that you are going to absent. Please let me know before class if you are going to have to leave early. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have an unplanned absence.

## Drop Policy

Attendance is required. If you are late, leave early, or miss on more than 6 occasions before the last day to withdraw, I may withdraw you from the course, although official school policy makes this your responsibility. (Each day of class counts as *two* “occasions”: one before the break, and one after the break.) A student may also be dropped who is not submitting appropriately completed assignments, even if they are in attendance. I may also withdraw you if you are not in attendance for two consecutive weeks without discussing it with me during the period in which the absences occur. After the voluntary withdrawal deadline, a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) must be assigned.

## Late Work Policy

Please mark your calendars, and use the Calendar in Canvas, to keep track of due-dates and -times. Late work is not accepted in this course, although in relatively rare instances deadlines for assignments may be extended beyond the dates set at the outset of this course. See "Tips for Success" below.

## Extra Credit

On occasion, extra credit may be made available at the discretion of the instructor. Any extra credit will be rooted in the course objectives and will include a deadline. The amount of total extra credit for the entire course will range from 0 to 25 points.

## Tips for Success

- Pay close attention to your due dates at the start of each content week. Plan to submit assignments *early*, since late work is not accepted. Mark them somewhere on your own calendar or phone reminder so you don't lose track of them...If you have an iPhone, you can always use Siri to remind you. If you have an Android as I do, you can use Alexa.
- Block out time in your schedule to do the work.
- Consider yourself a member of a community. We will all be here to help each other out.
- Treat contributions made by other members of the class with respect.
- Bring only a cup with a lid to class. Only water is allowed. No food is permitted in the classroom.
- Have patience and a sense of humor with technology.
- Keep an open mind.
- Ask for help when you need it, and assist others when possible.
- And never hesitate to ask for clarification when needed. I am here to help you succeed.

## Standards of Student Conduct

See the [LBCC Standards of Student Conduct](#).

## LBCC Policy on Academic Honesty

The Long Beach Community College District establishes an academic environment in which inquiry is nurtured, individual responsibility is rewarded, and academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism are not tolerated. **Academic Honesty:** Lack of honesty in the classroom [or in this web environment] is a very serious offense. Any form of cheating on tests, turning in work which is not one's own, talking [or otherwise communicating] during tests, furnishing false information to instructors, or knowingly misrepresenting oneself to the

college is grounds for disciplinary action. The consequences of cheating are severe and include the possibility of expulsion. [Bracketed insertions mine, *L. U. Fike, Jr.*]

### Definitions of Cheating and Plagiarism

**Cheating** is the act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise. Examples include **but are not limited to:** (1) copying or allowing another to copy a test, paper, project or performance. (2) Using unauthorized materials during a test, for example, notes, formula lists or "cheat sheets." (3) Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone to take a test for you. Cheating is forbidden in all academic environments, including this one.

**Plagiarism** is the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving credit. Plagiarism includes **but is not limited to:** (1) Incorporating the ideas or words of another's as well as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, etc., as one's own. Plagiarism is forbidden in all academic environments, including this one.

### Accessibility Statement of Long Beach City College

Long Beach City College is committed to making its electronic and information technologies accessible to individuals with disabilities by meeting or exceeding the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended in 1998. Section 508 is a federal law that requires agencies to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to electronic information and data comparable to those who do not have disabilities unless an undue burden would be imposed on the agency. The Section 508 standards are the technical requirements and criteria that are used to measure conformance within this law. More information on Section 508 and the technical standards can be found at [GSA Accessibility Program](#) website.

If you find a violation of this statement on this Canvas course website, I as your instructor ask that you bring it to my attention, since I will have committed the violation inadvertently. If, however, you are compelled to bring it to the attention of the College, [please contact the GSA Accessibility Program here](#).

### Student Success Resources

Even the most successful students can become even more successful by taking full advantage of many of these college-provided resources:

**Basic Skills Improvement:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/overview/basic-skills-improvement>

- Room L-212 at LAC or Room EE-206 at PCC.
- **Disabled Students Programs and Services:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/disabled-student-services>
  - Phone: (562) 938-4558 at LAC; (562) 938-3921 at PCC.
  - Room A-1148 at LAC; Room GG-107 at PCC. *Check before visiting.*
- **How to get Microsoft Office (especially MS Word):** <http://cos.lbcc.edu/microsoftoffice.php>
- **Multidisciplinary Success Center:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/multidisciplinary-success-centers>
  - Phone: (562) 938-4699.
  - Room L-212 at LAC; Room EE-206 at
- **Study Skills Downloads:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/overview/study-skills-downloads>
- **Study Skills Videos:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/post/study-skills-videos>

- **Tutoring Center:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/tutoring> - Appointments and walk-ins welcome.
  - Phone: (562) 938-4474 or (562) 938-3991.
  - Email: [tutoring@lbcc.edu](mailto:tutoring@lbcc.edu)
  - Room: L-203 (above Library) at LAC; Room EE-206 at PCC.

**Writing and Reading Success Center:** <https://www.lbcc.edu/writing-and-reading-success-center>

- Phone: (562) 938-4520.
- Room L212 at LAC; Room EE-206 at PCC.

### **Class Meeting Schedule**

This is the basic game plan for our course, and is subject to change. The best way to be sure of what is happening in our course is to be in class or else by contacting your course partner.

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

1. Introduction to Philosophy
  1. Domains of Philosophy
  2. The Triangle
  3. Intrapersonal and Interpersonal deliberation
2. Introduction to Critical Thinking
  1. Modes: Writing, Listening, Reading, Speaking
3. Computers & Technology
4. Canvas
5. Questionnaires/Course Partners
6. Syllabus & Personal Responsibility

Thursday, January 3, 2019

1. Sentences types
2. Claims
3. Arguments (deductive and inductive, plus relevant distinctions)
4. Validity
5. Quiz – Always have available an 815-E and an 882-E Scantron, as well as a No. 2 pencil.

Monday, January 7, 2019

1. Online Discussion (“Introductions”) due before 8:00 AM

2. Writing & Media
3. Exercises will be due on this date (assigned in class)
4. Group & individual work (reading and writing emphasis)
5. Computer check-in
6. Quiz on week's topics
7. Additional exercises due

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

1. Definition Types (group) – To be printed in advance by you, plus Moodle material
2. Ambiguity – Handouts & Canvas
3. Quiz on Ambiguity; old work continued

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

1. Quiz on Definition Types
2. Exercises will be due
3. Basic logic group assignment

Thursday, January 10, 2019

1. Exam 1 Preparation
2. Exam 1

Monday, January 14, 2019

1. Inductive reasoning
2. The scientific method
3. Op/Ed work
4. Exam 1 review
5. FALDs

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

FALD Groups

1. FALD (Fallacious Argument-Like Devices): Lecture
2. Group Work & Op/Ed piece
3. FALDs concluded

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

1. Quiz on select FALD (those to be included on Exam #2) – open note
2. Writing Time and Writing Review

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Performance preparation time

Monday, January 21, 2019

Introduction to Symbolic Logic

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Exam #2 (tentative)

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

FALD Group Presentations

Thursday, January 24, 2019

1. Translation
2. Truth Tables
3. Statement Evaluation
4. Argument Evaluation

Monday, January 28, 2019

Square of Opposition

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

1. Inductive Logic (in depth)
2. the Scientific Method (in depth)

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

1. 10 valid rules of inference

Thursday, January 31, 2019

1. More assistance on symbolic logic
2. Exercises on sentential logic due

Monday, February 4, 2019

Comprehensive Course Review

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Comprehensive Final Examination; Opinion/Editorial project due