The National Hispanic University
Philosophy 200
Introduction to Logic
Spring 2010

Michael Jordan
Department of General Studies
The National Hispanic University

Tuesday and Thursday 12:50- 2:10

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 2-5pm and Tuesday and Thursdays from 3-5pm. If you are not able to see me during these times please talk to me about arranging a time suitable to your schedule. I recommend that every student talk with me outside of class as often as needed throughout the course of the semester. I can also be reached via E-mail at the following address; mjordan@nhu.edu

Course Description: This course is designed to provide concepts and methods for understanding and analyzing arguments in both formal and informal ways. We will study clarity and precision in reasoning, the role of definitions, informal fallacies, inductive arguments, and deductive arguments. We will study the nature of identification of unstated assumptions, how to evaluate factual claims, and how to organize, analyze, synthesize and communicate relevant information. In addition, we will study these principles in the context of many issues involving culture, class, and gender. Sample arguments on these issues will be drawn from the literature of diverse cultural groups, from feminist theorists, and from various social and political positions. This course will emphasize the application of reasoning skills in reading, writing, and speaking. Course format will include lectures, discussions of arguments, and small group discussions. There will be quizzes, homework assignments, examinations, and argumentative writing assignments totaling a minimum of 3000 words.

Student Performance/Learning Objectives: upon completion of the course:

a. students should be able to distinguish between different types of reasoning and other types of discourse.
b. students should be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate different types of reasoning.
c. students should be able to find and state crucial unstated assumptions in reasoning.
d. students should be able to evaluate factual claims or statements used in reasoning and evaluate the sources of evidence for such claims.
e. students should be able to locate, retrieve, organize, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information of relevance to the subject matter of the course.


I will also give numerous handouts throughout the length of the course. The reading assignments will not be lengthy however, careful reading and completion of problem sets is indispensable to successful completion of the course.
**Course Requirements:**

**Points:**
- Quizzes = 30 points
- Research = 30 points
- Papers = 80 points
- Homework = 60 points
- Exams = 100 points

Total = 300 points

**Quizzes:** There will be 6 quizzes, each worth 5 points. On Wednesday there will be a quiz at the beginning or the end of the class, which will be based on the weekly reading assignments. There is no make-up for a missed quiz.

**Research Paper:** There will be one 5-page research paper worth 30 points that will require you to utilize and evaluate a minimum of five sources. Papers will be evaluated using a university wide rubric and will be used in a university wide assessment of critical thinking. Topics will be handed out in class three weeks before the paper is due. The paper will then only be accepted for credit up to 5 days after the due date. I expect papers to be typed and double-spaced. I allow and encourage re-writes if necessary.

**Argumentative/Research papers:** There will be 8 1-2 page persuasive papers assigned throughout the semester worth 10 points each. Topics will be assigned in class 1 week before each paper is due. Since it is not fair to other students to turn in late work, 2 points will be subtracted from late papers for each day they are late. The paper will then only be accepted for credit up to 5 days after the due date. I expect papers to be typed and double-spaced. I allow and encourage re-writes if necessary.

**Homework:** There will be reading assignments each week that will be accompanied with problem sets from the book. Before each test students are required to turn in a folder with all their completed problem sets for that section of the course. Each homework folder is 20 points and will comprise 60 points toward the final grade. Grades will be based on the percentage of completed problem sets. **Note: Only complete 1-15 on each of the problem sets. If you do not do the recommended problem sets you will not be able to pass the quizzes and exams. It is imperative that you do the problem sets in order to develop an understanding of the material covered in the reading.**

**Midterm and Final exams:** There will be 2 midterms and a final examination. Midterm exams are worth 30 points and the final exam is worth 40 points. On exams students will be expected to answer questions specific to the concepts and methods that have been learned in class and write a one-page essay.

**Attendance** is very important. I expect students to come to class and participate in class discussions. If you cannot speak about philosophy then you are going to have difficulty understanding it. Come to class prepared!

**Extra Credit:**
There will be opportunities to earn extra credit points throughout the course for writing addition argumentative essays. Possible essay topics will be given out weekly.
Spring 10 Tentative Schedule (9th edition): (Schedule may be changed)

**Week 1**

**Course Introduction: What is Critical Thinking?**

Read Chapter 1

Problem sets: 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 1-11

Tuesday Jan 26
Lecture: Introduction, What is an Argument? What is Critical Thinking? Assessment test

Thursday Jan 28
Lecture: Claims, Critical Thinking, Issues and Arguments
Group Work

**Week 2**

**Course Introduction: What is Critical Thinking?**

Read Chapter 1

Problem sets: 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 1-11

Tuesday Feb 2
Lecture: Writing argumentative essays

Quiz #1

Paper # 1 Due

Thursday Feb 4
Lecture: Writing argumentative essays

**Week 3**

**Understanding and Evaluating Arguments**

Read Ch. 2

Problem sets: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9

Tuesday Feb 9
Lecture: Assessing credibility/Anatomy of arguments

Induction/ Deduction

Group work/

Thursday Feb 11
Lecture: Assessing credibility/Anatomy of arguments

Induction/ Deduction

Group work/

**Week 4**

**Understanding and Evaluating Arguments**

Read Ch. 2

Problem sets: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 2.9

Tuesday Feb 16
Lecture: Assessing credibility/Anatomy of arguments

Induction/ Deduction

Group work

Thursday Feb 18
Lecture: Assessing credibility/Anatomy of arguments

Induction/ Deduction

Group work

Quiz #2

Paper #2 Due

**Week 5**

**Clear Thinking and Critical Thinking**

Read Chapter 3

Problem sets: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.10

Tuesday Feb 23
Lecture: Vagueness and Ambiguity

Group work
Thursday Feb 25  Lecture: Vagueness and Ambiguity

**Week 6**  Clear Thinking and Critical Thinking
Read Chapter 3
Problem sets: 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.10

Tuesday Mar 2  Lecture: Vagueness and Ambiguity

Thursday Mar 4  Lecture: MIDTERM #1
                Paper # 3 due

**Week 7**  Credibility
Read Chapter 4
Problem sets: 4.5, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.12

Tuesday Mar 9  Lecture: The Claim and its source
                Quiz #3

Thursday Mar 11  Lecture: Assessing the content of claims
                  Group Work

**Week 8**  Induction
Read Chapter 10
Problem sets: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8

Tuesday Mar 16  Lecture: Inductive Generalizations

Thursday Mar 18  Lecture: Inductive Generalizations
                  Group Work
                  Paper # 3

**Week 9**  Induction
Read Chapter 10
Problem sets: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8

Tuesday Mar 23  Lecture: Arguments from Analogy
                  Group Work

Thursday Mar 25  Lecture: Arguments from analogy
                  Quiz #4
                  Paper #4 Due

**Spring Break  Mar 29-April 2 NO CLASS**

**Week 10**  Induction
Read Chapter 10
Problem sets: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8

Tuesday Apr 6  Lecture: The problem of Induction

Thursday Apr 8  Lecture: MIDTERM #2
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Persuasion through Rhetoric</th>
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<tr>
<td>Read Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Problem sets: 5.1 5.2 5.3 5.5 5.6 5.7 5.10</td>
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<td>Tuesday Apr 13</td>
<td>Lecture: Common Devices and Techniques</td>
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<td>Thursday Apr 15</td>
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<td>Read Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Problem Set: 6.2 6.3 6.4 7.2 7.3 7.4</td>
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<td>Tuesday Apr 20</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: Psychological and Related Fallacies</td>
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<td>Thursday Apr 22</td>
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<td>Read Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Tuesday Apr 27</td>
<td>Guest Lecture: More Fallacies</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Moral, Legal, and Aesthetic Reasoning</th>
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<td>Read Chapter 12 pg. 436-448</td>
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<td>Problem Sets: 12.1 12.2 12.3 12.4 12.6 12.8</td>
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<td>Tuesday May 4</td>
<td>Lecture: Value Claims/Judgments and Moral Evaluation</td>
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<td>Thursday May 6</td>
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<td>Tuesday May 11</td>
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