

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 8 - Methods of Argument

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 2

Recommended Prep: NONE

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is a study of argumentative writing, including traditional topics in logic. The course will emphasize the application of argumentative methods and models to the analysis of contemporary moral, political, economic, and philosophical issues.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze an argument in terms of traditional logic (definitions, assumptions, premises and conclusion, deduction and induction, and formal and informal fallacies).
- B. Identify the difference between subjective and objective claims; belief and knowledge.
- C. Apply appropriate standards to the evaluation of judgments of value.
- D. Evaluate assumptions, evidence, testimony, and statistics as they are used in argumentative writing.
- E. Write an essay that demonstrates the use of generally accepted standards of good argumentation in the identification and use of sources, evidence, and reasons.
- F. Articulate viewpoints found in diverse cultural, political, gender, scientific, philosophical, and religious contexts.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Reading arguments	3.00
a. Examining assumptions (stated and unstated)	
b. Active reading (summarizing and paraphrasing, thesis identification)	
2. Arguing about issues	6.00
a. Reason vs. rationalization	
b. Definitions, assumptions, premises and conclusion, syllogism, evidence, examples, authoritative testimony, deduction and induction, sound and strong arguments, statistics, emotional appeals and other fallacies	
c. Genre identification (such as satire, sarcasm, polemical work, philosophical essay)	
3. Writing an argument and the written analysis of arguments	6.00
a. Analyzing an argument (claims and their support)	
b. Identifying the author's thesis, purpose, methods, persona	
c. Construction an argument (planning, drafting, and revising a paper)	

4. Using sources	3.00
a. Evaluating print and electronic sources	
b. Quoting from sources; plagiarism	
c. Integrating arguments and sources	
d. Documentation	
5. Refining argumentative skills and analysis of short debates	15.00
6. Analysis of longer and more abstract written works	18.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Reading Assignments
- E. Multimedia Presentations
- F. Writing (minimum 6000 word writing requirement)

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Portfolios
- D. Papers
- E. Homework
- F. Class participation

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
- B. Writing Assignments
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Barnet, S., Bedau, Hl, & Hacker, D.. Current Issues and Enduring Questions. 8 Edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008.
- B. Moore, B. N., & Parker, R.. Critical Thinking. 9 Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2008.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Contemporary source materials

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