

Course Description

Logical Fallacies and Critical Thinking

H.O.M.E. Group 2018-2019 **January thru May**

Instructor: Sandra Kunkel

Start Date: January 4, 2019

Email: kunkster01@gmail.com

End Date: May 17, 2019

Phone Number: 248-701-5338

Class Times: Fri. 2:15-3:45 Block D

Cash Cost = \$180 for 18 weeks. Half of tuition is due at Meet the Teacher on August 21, 2018. Half of tuition is due on January 4, 2019. (unless otherwise agreed upon by the instructor)
Materials are purchased on your own; see Textbook and Supplies Needed section below.

SOARCE Cost: \$250

Instructor Biography

I have been teaching Spanish classes at H.O.M.E. since 2009. I began teaching literature courses in 2013. I have also taught music classes. I graduated from Endicott College in 1982 with a degree in education. I home schooled my own children for many years. I am the wife of Mark, the mother of four sons, and the grandmother of four. I attend Faith Lutheran Church where I volunteer in the worship and women's ministries. I have been studying Spanish since middle school. I have traveled to Spain and Mexico, several times as a missionary. My passion is teaching, helping students connect to the subjects I teach. In my free time (ha!), I love to read, walk in the mountains and woods, and spend time with my family.

Course Description

This is a one semester class. This class serves as an introduction to the field of Informal Logic, with the purpose to equip students with the ability to spot logical fallacies, identify them, and, with this knowledge, be able to make informed decisions regarding the information given them. This study encourages critical thinking and, therefore, the ability to process information systematically and accurately, with the purpose of helping students avoid making fallacies in their own reasoning. The areas of informal logic taught will include: fallacies of avoiding questions, making assumptions, statistical fallacies, and propaganda.

Skills & Topics

The class begins with a discussion of what it means to think critically. We explore cognition, and the stages of development that lead humans to the point where abstract logic and reason are possible. We move into the qualities of an inquiring mind, which, when understood, help us to conduct civil arguments. We will explore the definition of *fallacy* and explore many types of them, especially those in the areas listed above in Coarse Description. Students will complete homework and projects designed to encourage them to spot errors in logic in many areas of society and culture, including advertising, media, literature, politics, and education. Positive habits of argument will be explored and taught, with the goal of the students incorporating these habits into their own lives.

Course Objectives/Goals

Because this course is designed for 8th grade - High School students in the HOME group, the objectives for the course are multifaceted:

- o There will be **homework** every week that must be completed outside of class and returned the following week for grading and review. A homework outline will be sent home weekly with assignments listed.
- o Students will need to search outside of class time for examples of the fallacies taught in action, whether in magazines, books, television, and other media, etc.
- o Students must be willing to share in class; **class participation is vital!**
- o There will be several small writing assignments and projects throughout the year.

Textbook and Supplies Needed

1. Textbook: ***The Fallacy Detective*** by Nathaniel Blueborn and Hans Blueborn
Workbook edition, 2015 (ISBN #978-0-9745315-7-1) Available at Amazon.com \$19.80
**Group purchase price is \$14.30. I will need to place an order 2 months before class begins.
2. Binder with paper, pen, and pencil (**Organization is key to success!**).
3. Use of a library and/or internet for research
4. Use of a computer and printer for papers
5. Materials to make and organize flashcards of the assigned vocabulary.
6. Other materials and hand-outs will be provided by the teacher. Project materials will need to be obtained by the students when assigned.

Classroom Policies

- Cell phones should not be used during class, unless approved by the instructor.
- Please be punctual and attentive for the class period. Bring all the required materials.
- Textbook work and assignments are due on the due date and are not accepted later unless you have an excused absence. In that case it is accepted the following class period only. Incomplete work is accepted for partial credit.
- If the student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor for the missed assignment, kunkster01@gmail.com.
- If a quiz or a test is missed, arrangements must be made, within the week for the student to take it. **Please** exercise integrity and do not discuss the quizzes/test with students who have not completed them!
- Students should feel free to share with the instructor, ask questions, and seek assistance from the instructor whenever needed.
- Students should respect their parents and instructor, and view them as working in conjunction to ensure student success in this class.

Evaluation and Grading

Grades will be based on student's performance on homework, projects and class participation. The formula for grading, based on a 100 point scale, is as follows:

- Homework assignments, averaged=50 pts.
- Tests and projects, averaged=25 pts.
- Participation, averaged=25 pts.

On many of the homework assignments I employ a check system in grading. My philosophy for this is based on the fact that I only see the students once a week. Therefore, I use the check system to reward effort, encouraging students to complete the assignments.

- If the homework assignment is missing=0.
- If the homework assignment is only partially completed it will receive a check minus (equivalent to 75%).
- If the assignment is completed but contains many mistakes, it will receive a check (equivalent to 85%).
- If the assignment is well done, it will receive a check plus (equivalent to 95%).
- If the assignment is perfect, or above and beyond my expectations, it will receive a grade of check plus-plus (equivalent to 100%).

Percent	Letter Grade
100-98	A +
97-93%	A
92-90%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-83%	B
82-80%	B-
79-77%	C+
76-73%	C
72-70%	C-
69-67%	D+
66-63%	D
62-60%	D-
59-0%	F