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Spring 2003  
Office Hours:  
T 11: AM-Noon  
R 1-2 PM & by appt.

Required Texts (USF bookstore)

*The Power of Logic*, Layman  
*The Elements of Style*, Strunk and White  
*A Rule Book for Arguments*, Weston  
*What's So Great About America*, D'Souza  
*The Death of Right and Wrong*, Bruce

### Course Objectives

To teach the student the importance of thinking logically and how to think logically; to teach the student how to write critically and philosophically and to introduce the student to the colloquia and other activities offered by the university's philosophy department.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1)The student will learn the laws of inference, enabling him or her to distinguish between valid and invalid arguments;
- 2)will be able to identify formal and informal fallacies;
- 3)will present a substantial paper that advances an argument that utilizes logical thinking, analyzes concepts, and applies the rules of effective writing.

### Grading

Evaluation of student performance in the course will be based on the following criteria: attendance, homework, bibliographic research project and article review, abstracts, and examinations.

**Attendance**, along with homework, class participation and abstracts, will comprise **30%** of the final grade. Only a physician's note or a note stating that the absence was due to an official university activity or documented evidence of extenuating circumstances will be accepted as grounds for an excused absence.

**Homework** will consists of assignments from the logic textbook

### Bibliographic Research Project

Using library resources, the class as a whole will compile a complete bibliography of the publications of the full-time faculty at USF. This is the **USF Philosophy Faculty Bibliography**. Besides identifying what each faculty member has published, the class will discover whether the publication is among USF's library holdings. If not, the class will obtain a copy of the publication through Inter-library loan. Each department member will then be invited to examine his bibliography for completeness. (**Article Review 10%**) When the class has finished assembling the **USF Philosophy Faculty Bibliography**, each student will select an article by a faculty member for review. The same article may not be reviewed by more than one student and at least one article by each faculty member

will be reviewed. The review article will be a 5-7 page (#12 font) summary and review of the article's thesis, arguments advanced for the thesis, and a bibliography of 10 articles over the past decade published on the subject of the reviewed article.

### **Argumentative Essay (30%)**

Each student will write a three-part argumentative essay, defending or criticizing a major thesis in either one of the following two books: D'Souza, *What's So Great About America* or Bruce, *The Death of Right and Wrong*. The paper is to be 12-15 pp. in length (#12 font), adhering to Chapters VII-IX of *A Rulebook for Arguments* and *The Elements of Style*. Before starting the project, the student will meet with me to discuss a topic for the paper. **No paper will be accepted the topic of which has not been approved by me.** Each student will be responsible for critiquing the drafts of other students and will be graded in part on how well he or she critiques the other student's paper for grammar and argument. The first part of the essay will consist of an introduction, a thesis statement, and three arguments in support of the thesis. The second part will consist of a counter-thesis and three counter arguments. The third part will consist of a comparison of the arguments indicating their relative strengths and weaknesses and concluding with your own position.

### **Homework, Abstracts, and Examinations**

There will be weekly homework assignments and abstracts (30% in conjunction with your class and colloquium attendance), a **midterm examination** (10%) and a **Final Examination** (20%). The weekly homework assignments pertain to material covered in the logic and writing parts of the course; the abstracts pertain to the presentations delivered in class by members of the philosophy faculty and the colloquia.

### **Philosophy Colloquia**

Students in the course must attend the philosophy colloquia and will, accordingly, be given a number of free Wednesdays during the semester to make up for it. Attendance at these colloquia will count toward the student's final attendance grade (30%). Because the colloquia are outside the regular scheduled class time, it is incumbent on the student to make arrangements to attend them:

F 9/26 3-5pm, Faculty Lounge: Bill McBride, Purdue University

T 10/7 3-5pm Faculty Lounge: Don Howard

F 11/21 3-5pm Lone Mountain Rm 140: Robert Benasconi, Memphis University

### **Class Schedule**

#### **September**

M 9/1 Holiday (Labor Day) – no class

W 9/3 Introduction to the course

M 9/8 Library philosophy resources, 3:30-4:30; lecturer, Joe Garrity; meet in lobby of Gleeson Library

W 9/10 Logic, 20-42; Elements: Rules 4-7, pp. 5-9; Rulebook VII 53-58

M 9/15 Logic, 47-65; Elements: Rules 9-11, pp. 9-14; Rulebook, VIII, 59-63. **DUE: USF Philosophy Faculty Bibliography**

W 9/17 TBA

M 9/22 Logic 89-113, 121-131, 137-156; Elements, Rules 15-17, pp. 19-29; Rulebook, IX 64-70

W 9/24 No class meeting; F 9/26 visiting lecturer, Bill McBride, Faculty Lounge

M 9/29 Logic 163-174, 177-182; Elements, Rules 15-17, pp. 19-29; **DUE: First Part of Argumentative Essay (2 copies) and USF faculty article choices.**

### **October**

W 10/1 Logic 187-211; Elements, Rules 18-19, pp. 25-28; **DUE: comments on First Part of Argumentative Essay (2 copies)**

M 10/6 Review for Midterm

W 10/8 No class – visiting prof. On T 10/7, Dan Howard, Faculty Lounge

M 10/13 midterm

W 10/15 TBA

M 10/20 No Class; Berkeley debate, 4:10 to 6pm, Wheeler Auditorium

W 10/ 22 TBA; turn in USF faculty article review to dept. secretary

M 10/27 Logic 213-239; Elements, Rules 20-22, pp. 28-33

W 10/29 Prof. Arisaka

### **November**

M 11/3 Logic 243-255; Elements, pp. 34-38; **DUE: second part of argumentative essay; 2 copies**

W 11/5 TBA

M 11/10 Elements, pp. 39-49; **DUE: comments on second part of argumentative essay; 2 copies**

W 11/12 TBA

M 11/17 Logic, 441-479

W 11/19 No class; visiting faculty lecture F 11/21 (Bernasconi) LM 140

M 11/24 Elements, pp. 49-65

W 11/26 Prof. Taylor

**December**

M 12/1 Elements 66-76

W 12/3 TBA

M 12/8 review

W 12/10 last day of class; TBA

M 12/15 Final Examination 8 AM; paper is due and must be submitted with the completed final examination. **N.B. Late submissions will be downgraded one full grade for each day overdue. Exceptions require the same conditions as for excused absences.**