Department:

Philosophy

Course Description:

The study of critical thinking and logic allows the student to practice skills in clear and logical thinking, analysis of information, and effective argumentation. The student will formulate and deliver arguments in written and oral form, supported by evidence and valid underlying assumptions.

Course Competencies:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KRSN Course PHL 1030 Logical and Critical Thinking)

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of principles of argument and persuasion
2. Apply ethical standards to argument practices
3. Identify and use valid forms of evidence to support a claim
4. Evaluate arguments and determine whether they are valid and sound
5. Apply the tests of reasoning to arguments to detect logical fallacies
6. Use effective strategies to respond to and refute an opposing argument
7. Identify logical fallacies in the media, political campaigns, and other settings
8. Eliminate weak arguments and logical fallacies in one’s own communication

Course Content:

A. Foundation of Arguments
B. Values and Ethics
C. Reality Assumptions
D. Inductive Arguments
E. Inductive Generalizations
F. Reasoning Errors
G. The Power of Language
H. Suggestion in Media
I. Fair-Mindedness
J. Persuasive Speaking
Learning Assessments:

- 3 short exams each worth 50 points. The combined worth is a total of 150 points (15% of the final grade).
- The comprehensive final exam is worth 150 points (15% of the total grade).
- Class participation and other in-class work is worth 200 points (20% of the final grade). Class participation is not just showing up and filling a seat. Class participation means taking an active role in discussions, in class activities, and other group work as assigned. If you show up and do nothing, you get no points. Let me know you are actually alive.
- 2 Presentations, worth a total of 200 points (20% of the final grade).
- The final 300 points (30% of the final grade) is made up of shorter writings, homework, and other out of class assignments.
- There is no curve. Final grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

A = 90% to 100%  
B = 80% – 89%  
C = 70% – 79%  
D = 60% – 69%  
F = 59% and below

(900 – 1000 points)
(800 – 899 points)
(700 – 799 points)
(600 – 699 points)
(0 – 599 points)

Course Schedule:

This outline is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on assignments and reading go to [https://mkelleyhcc.wordpress.com/](https://mkelleyhcc.wordpress.com/)

Instructional Materials:

ISBN: 978-0-205-06345-1
E-mailed papers
Because of the propensity for papers to disappear through the e-mail system, I will only accept printed hard copies of your assignments for final submission.

Late Papers
Papers are due at the start of class. Turn in your work on time. **No late work will be accepted.**

Minimum Effort
For each assignment, I am going to set a minimum effort limit. If the assignment that is turned in does not meet the minimum limit, it will be given a 0. Make use of the generous late paper policy.

Credible Sources
We will spend some time talking about what constitutes credible and reliable sources. Just let it be known that if you try to cite a non-credible source on a paper, that paper will be given a 0.

Peer Review
An important part of learning to write for professional and academic settings is learning to give and receive constructive criticism. At various times throughout the semester you will be reviewing your classmates and then offering the author feedback. As noted previously, to make sure the peer review process is taken seriously, it is included as part of your grade.

Attendance
Students should attend class on a regular basis; it is (hopefully) the reason you are here. Attendance will be taken at the start of class. Please arrive to class on time. After the instructor takes roll, the instructor has the option to shut and lock the doors (This option will be exercised liberally). Once the doors are shut and locked, no one will be allowed into class and anyone not present will be marked absent.

Funerals, illness, and other emergencies are not formally excused, but won’t hurt your grade if you can get it cleared with the Vice President of Student Services.

**College-sponsored activities are excused, but you still have to get your work in on time.**
Expected Classroom Behavior

If you need to use the restroom, you don’t need to ask, you are free to go.

My classroom is not a hostage situation. If you are legally an adult, you are free to leave at any time for any reason.

Electronic devices should be stored and put away. This policy is motivated by the growing body of research which finds that the use of laptops (and phones) hinder learning not just for the people who use them but the students around them as well. Notes should be taken using paper and your writing utensil of choice.

If the usage of electronic devices proves to be a distraction, the student will be asked to leave class period and will not be allowed back until they meet with the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Note: If you miss classes because of this, it will not count as an excused absence.

Students should be listening, adding to the discussion, and taking notes. Please don’t carry on distracting side conversations or engage in other activities that distract the instructor or other students from the class. If the distraction persists, it will be treated as a lesser disruption.

Please don’t sleep in class. If you’re drowsing off, I may send you home to sleep and mark you absent, so participate and stay awake. If that doesn’t work, go get a drink of water and come back.

Some things that students should not do:
Violate others’ rights to an educational atmosphere, interfering with the operations of HCC, be disrespectful to others, or showing insubordination to HCC authorities. Students who violate this policy will be sent out of the room, and the incident will be documented. Students will have to complete the online Classroom Readmission Form and meet with the VP of Academic Affairs before coming back to class. Students will not be allowed to make up missed work or tests. Students who violate this a second time will be sent out and removed from the roll.

The worst disruptions, such as if a student demeans, embarrasses, sexually harasses, or threatens the life or physical safety of others, will get them sent out of class and removed from the roll with a W or WF.

For more information on the HCC policy on Classroom Behavior Guidelines, consult page 149 of the Student Handbook.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Plagiarism is defined as “A specific kind of academic dishonesty in which you take another’s ideas or words and claim them as your own.” When you draw on someone else’s work, you must indicate the source of that material, whether you are repeating another’s words, argument or thought. Even if you paraphrase another’s work and are not using the exact wording, you are still required to indicate the source of the material. This material must be clearly identified with appropriate citations. If you do not do that, you have plagiarized those materials. Any time you copy and paste any writing that is not your own for an assignment, you must use quotation marks and give the source of that material. If you cut and paste without noting what you have done, you will be guilty of plagiarism. Even if the writing is your own, if it has been used for a previous assignment that should be indicated.

The first time any student is caught plagiarizing or engaging in other forms of academic dishonesty, they will receive a zero for that exam or assignment. If the student is caught a second time, they will receive an F in the course. All violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on
Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an online report https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?HighlandCCKS&layout_id=1 about what happened so that they can get the support they need and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following website: https://highlandcc.edu/caffeine/uploads/files/Approved%20Equity%20Grievance%20Policy.pdf.