UNI 102 Critical Thinking – Spring 2015

Course description:

The main objective of this course is to establish a well-articulated understanding of critical thinking skills. These skills play a crucial role in every day life reasoning and scientific methodology, not to mention their significance in constructing philosophical arguments. At the end of the course you’re expected to

1. analyze arguments into premises and conclusions
2. evaluate deductive arguments for validity and soundness
3. evaluate inductive arguments for strength

Consequently, you will become a person who does not just state opinions and beliefs but is also capable of defending them effectively in all areas of life.

All registered students of UNI 102 are expected to know and be aware of rules of academic honesty and violation of academic honesty, falsification, plagiarism, complicity of falsification or plagiarisms, procedures and processes under Istanbul Şehir University Instruction for Ethics Committees part nine, articles 34-40.

Textbook: The Power of Logic by Frances Howard-Snyder, Daniel Howard-Snyder, Ryan Wasserman, 5th edition, McGraw Hill, NY, 2013. This is going to be an e-book. The relevant passwords and access are made available through the bookstore.


Grading: Midterm 25% ..... Final 30% ....... Assignments 45%

Important dates: Add-drop period: Feb. 23–26 ...... Withdrawal deadline: Apr.17

Course schedule:

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| Week 9       | Midterm Apr. 14th  
No UNI 102 class on Apr. 16th  
Withdrawal deadline Apr. 17th  
No UNI 102 DS on Apr. 17th | Ch 10 |
| Week 10      | Spring Break (Apr. 20-24th) | |
| Week 11      | Lecture but no DS on May 1st | Informal Fallacies | Ch 4 |
| Week 12      | Lecture and DS 7 | Categorical Logic | Ch 5-6 |
| Week 13      | Lecture and DS 8 | Categorical Logic | Ch 5-6 |
| Week 14      | Lecture (May 21st only) and DS 9 | Review |
| Week 15      | Lecture (May 26th only) and DS 10 | |
VERY IMPORTANT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A) Assignments

1. All assignments must be submitted as hard copies (either as a print-out or in handwriting. If you choose to submit it in handwriting, make sure that it is easy to read)

2. Deadlines for the submission of assignments will be announced and are very strict. No assignments will be accepted after the deadline. Assignments will be collected in class on the relevant day 10 minutes before lecture time by my assistant or me. Your absence is NOT an excuse. Your lateness is NOT an excuse. If you are going to be absent or late that day, make sure that you make the arrangement to submit it before.

3. Assignment deadlines: 1st assignment – March 26th / 2nd assignment – Apr.30th / 3rd assignment – May 26th

4. Do NOT send your assignments by email. If you do that, it counts as zero.

5. When assignments are graded, the grade will be uploaded on LMS and the assignments will be placed in a box in front of my office. You can pick it up from there anytime you like.

6. If you have an objection to the assignment grade, you have two weeks (starting from the day they are put in the box) to see me. All objections are to be discussed with me and NOT the assistants during my office hour. After two weeks graded assignments will be removed and are no longer accessible.

B) Discussion sessions

Attendance to discussion sessions (DS) is a prerequisite to take the midterm. Here is how it works;

1. To be eligible for taking the midterm: You must attend at least 4 out of 6 DS until the day of the midterm (Apr.14th).

2. You must attend the DS you are registered to. Your attendance to another DS does not count.

3. DS start on March 6th.

C) Other

Rules of the game:

1. If you have any questions, or anything you want to inform me about, discuss with me etc. please come to my office and see me. I mean this! Do NOT send me an email. Do NOT send my assistants emails. You will not get a reply. My assistants will also have office hours.

2. Office hours: 1019 west campus Thurs. 14:00 – 15:00 (if that is in conflict with your schedule, you can try Tues. 14:00 – 15:00. I am usually not available after 15:00. If Tues. and Thurs. both do not work, then you need to schedule an appointment for another day and it needs to be before 15:00. You need to do that through my assistant Muharrem Bagriyanik (muharrembagriyanik@std.sehir.edu.tr)

3. Read the syllabus very carefully. In my experience, more than half of the questions I get from students are questions that already have their answers in the
syllabus.

4. Lecture notes and the syllabus will be available on LMS.