

# Course Syllabus

## Philosophy 115: Critical Thinking

Spring Quarter 2013

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This is an online course. There are no meeting dates or times. The course will start on 1 Apr 2013 and will end on 14 Jun 2013.

### Course Overview

We encounter arguments in all spheres of our daily lives. Arguments, whether made by family members, scientists, politicians, or media figures, are tendered in support of some position or other. This course is designed to introduce you to the various forms of argumentation and the ways to assess the strengths/limitations of those arguments. By the end of the course, you should be able to extract arguments from a variety of sources and offer a philosophical analysis of each.

### Goals and Objectives

- Development of the ability to identify different forms of argument
- Development of the ability to extract and reconstruct arguments from different media
- Development of strategies for critically evaluating arguments
- Practice the development of analytical writing skills
- Development of the philosophical vocabulary necessary to practice effective critical thinking

### Required Text

Richard Feldman, *Reason and Argument* (2nd ed), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999. ISBN: 0-13-624602-8

### Grades/Assessment

Your final grade will be based on points earned in the following categories:

Homework Assignments (10): 100 points (10 points each)

Quizzes (5): 100 points (20 points each)

Midterm Exam: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

### PASSING THE COURSE

In order to earn a passing grade (where 'passing grade' is defined as a final letter grade of C- or higher) in this course, a student must:

- (1) earn at least 200 points; and
- (2) submit all ten (10) homework assignments; and

- (3) complete all five (5) quizzes; and
- (4) complete both exams.

These four requirements, taken together, are the *minimum* requirements for passing the course. Any student who does not earn at least 200 points in the course, or who does not submit one or more of the homework assignments, or who does not complete one or more of the quizzes, or who does not complete both exams, will be at risk for course failure. All the graded work for the course **MUST** be completed in order for a student to be eligible to pass the course.

Additionally, any student who satisfies **all four** of these requirements is *guaranteed* a passing grade (C- or higher) in this course. The best way to ensure that you'll pass the course is to work towards satisfying all four of these requirements.

## **INFORMATION PERTINENT TO STUDENT LIFE AND AFFAIRS AT BELLEVUE COLLEGE**

A link to the Philosophy department's web site: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/philosophy/>

### **Affirmation of Inclusion**

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

### **Division Statements**

You should also review the Arts and Humanities Expectations posted here: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/artshum/policy.html>

Information about Bellevue Colleges copyright guidelines can be found at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

A good resource for Plagiarism is the Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

### **Student Code of Academic Conduct**

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.” The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at: [http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050\\_Student\\_Code.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp)

**Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC:** All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network

account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> .

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the Computing Services website.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)** The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter. The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

### **Public Safety**

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

### **Academic Calendar**

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.

College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

### **ONLINE COURSE**

It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure that he or she has access to a reliable Internet connection for purposes of working through the course. **An inability to connect to the Internet or to the Canvas site (whether this is due to a problem on the user's end or the server's end) will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to turn in work on time.** I will assume that you are checking in with the course on a daily basis, and regularly enough to catch any important all-course communication I may have sent, or to be apprised of any changes in due dates.