HU2701 Logic and Critical Thinking Fall 2011
MWF 11:05-11:55
Section 01
Class Room: Walker 109

Dr. Alexandra Morrison
Office: Room 340 Walker
Telephone: 487-2612
e-mail: lamorris@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5 or by appointment

Course Description: This course is an introduction to elementary formal logic and critical thinking. The two required texts have as their goal the inculcation of habits of critical thinking and each attempts to reach this goal in different manner. Learning these different approaches for recognizing faulty argumentation and constructing sound and convincing arguments will provide students with the necessary skills for engaging in critical reflection on complex issues in their personal and professional lives as well as in their academic work.

Required Texts:


Tentative Class/Reading and Assignment Schedule:

WEEK 1
8/29 M- Introduction
8/31 W- Attacking Faulty Reasoning (AFR) Intro and Chapter 1 pp. 1-12 (Hand in writing assignment A or D on pg. 12 of AFR.)
9/1 F- AFR Chapter 2 – What is an Argument? pp. 13-29. (Hand in writing assignment C, D or G on pg. 28 of AFR)

WEEK 2
9/5 M – Labor Day – No Classes
9/7 W – AFR Chapter 3- What is a Good Argument? pp. 30-40 (Hand in writing assignment D on pg. 50 of AFR)
9/9 F – AFR Chapter 3 pp. 40-50 (Hand in writing assignment E on pg. 50 of AFR)

WEEK 3
9/12 M – AFR Chapter 4 What is a Fallacy? pp. 51-61 (Do writing assignment B and C on pg. 61 of AFR and hand in C)
9/14 W - *The Logic of Real Arguments (LRA)* Chapter 1 pp. 1-14, Chapter 2- A General Method of Argument Analysis pp. 15- 28. (Hand in analysis exercise #1 on pg. 188 of LRA or do alternative assignment posted on Blackboard)


**WEEK 4**

9/19 M - **LRA**, Reasoning about Nuclear Deterrence, pp. 48-69

9/21 W - **LRA**, An example from J.S. Mill, pp. 70-81

9/23 F - **LRA** Arguments about God’s existence, pp. 82-98

**WEEK 5**

9/26 M - **LRA** Mind-body argument, pp. 99-114

9/28 W - **LRA** “Suppose…” pp. 115-131

9/30 F - **LRA** An example from Marx, pp. 132-142

**WEEK 6**

10/3 M - **LRA** Evaluating ‘scientific’ arguments, pp. 143-159

10/5 W - **LRA** Philosophical assumptions, pp. 160-171

10/7 F - -- Elementary formal logic -- HANDOUTS

**WEEK 7**

10/10 M - **LRA** Chapter on Elementary Formal Logic pp. 172-187

10/12 W - In class Formal Logic practice

10/14 F - In class Formal Logic practice

**WEEK 8**

10/17 M - **IN CLASS EXAMINATION**

10/19 W - **AFR** Chapter 5 Fallacies that Violate the Structural Criterion pp. 63-71

10/21 F - **AFR** Chapter 5 Fallacies of Inconsistency pp. 72-76

**WEEK 9**

10/24 M - **AFR** Chapter 5 Fallacies of Deductive Inference pp. 76-87

10/26 W - **AFR** Chapter 6 Fallacies that Violate the Relevance Criterion pp. 92-101

10/28 F - **AFR** Chapter 6 Fallacies of Irrelevant Appeal pp. 102-114

**WEEK 10**

10/31 M - **AFR** Chapter 7 Fallacies that Violate the Acceptability Criterion pp. 120-135

11/2 W - **AFR** Chapter 7 Fallacies of Unwarranted Assumption pp. 136-153

11/4 F - **AFR** Chapter 8 Fallacies of Missing Evidence pp. 161-174
WEEK 11
11/7 M - AFR Chapter 8 Causal Fallacies pp. 176-188
11/9 W - AFR Chapter 9 Fallacies of Counterevidence pp. 194-197
11/11 F - AFR Chapter 9 Ad Hominem Fallacies pp. 198-203

WEEK 12
11/14 M - AFR Chapter 9 pp. 204-211
11/16 W - AFR Chapter 10 pp. 216-223
11/18 F - Discussion groups to work on in-class assignment

THANKSGIVING
11/21 M - No Class
11/23 W - No Class
11/25 F - No Class

WEEK 13
11/28 M - Formal Logic, assignments posted on BB
11/29 W - Formal Logic, assignments posted on BB
12/2 F - ARGUMENT ANALYSIS DUE

WEEK 14
12/5 M - Formal Logic, Assignments posted on BB
12/7 W - Review
12/9 F - Review

Grades will be based on the following:

| Attendance, Participation in class discussion and tutorial groups | 10% |
| Mid-Term Exam (Oct. 17) | 25% |
| Weekly Writing Assignments | 20% |
| Argument Analysis (Dec. 2) | 25% |
| Final Exam (TBA) | 20% |

**Weekly Writing Assignments.** I will assign at least 14 short writing assignments that will engage you with the material that you are reading for each week. They must be handed in at the beginning of the class in which we will be discussing the material. You must complete at least 10 of these assignments and these will make up 20% of your grade. You can write more than 10 only your 10 best results will count toward your grade.

**Argument Analysis.** This project requires the student to use the type of argument
analysis that they will have learned and practiced throughout the course. Students will find an argument that deeply concerns them and write a detailed analysis. They should be about 5 pages long. More detailed instructions will be provided in a handout closer to the due date.

**Academic integrity** is essential to a student’s education. Plagiarism, Cheating, Fabrication and Facilitating Academic Dishonesty are offences that will not be tolerated. Plagiarism—loosely defined as the presentation of the work of another author as if it were your own—will not be tolerated. If you are unclear about how to cite your sources properly, you are urged to discuss the matter with the instructor before submitting an assignment. Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with the University policy. SEE http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/

**Class attendance** is very important. Three excused or unexcused absences are permitted; it is your responsibility to notify the instructor if you cannot be in class. More than three unexcused absences can result in a lowering of the final course grade by at least a half letter grade, and additional unexcused absences may result in a grade of F being recorded for the entire course. See http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/ for more information.

**Late Policy:** Late papers will be reduced a fraction of a grade (e.g. from B to B-) for each week, or part thereof, of lateness, up to two full grades (e.g. from B to D).

**If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following: Michigan Technological University complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, Chair/Dean of your academic unit, or the Affirmative Programs Office at 487-3310.**