

Course Outline
PHIL 103
Critical Thinking
3 Credit Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Practical Logic

Gives effective and logical approaches to everyday arguments and issues; describes the nature of a good argument, fallacies, and the roles that language and subjective factors play in everyday reasoning; provides the thinking skills necessary for a citizen in a free and open society.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 052 or LVE 2), (ESOL 052 or LVE 2) and (RDNG 052 or LVR 2) or (MATH 081 or LVM 1)

Prerequisites

Exemption from or the successful completion of (ENGL 052 or ESOL 052 or LVE2) and RDNG 052 or LVR2) and (MATH 071 or MATH 081 or MATH 013 or LVM1)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. explain the difference between reflective and pre-reflective claims
2. define knowledge, belief and truth
3. explain the similarities and dissimilarities between simple and complex arguments
4. explain the criteria for evaluating arguments
5. demonstrate the ability to evaluate good and bad arguments
6. distinguish between inductive and deductive arguments
7. analyze some of the major psychological barriers to good reasoning
8. identify various common fallacies and explain their meaning
9. construct cogent arguments
10. explain how ego/sociocentrism affects good reasoning
11. apply problem solving to resolve a practical problem

Major Topics

1. Understanding the nature of arguments
2. Evaluating arguments
3. Psychological barriers to good reasoning
4. Logic, language and truth
5. Fallacies
6. Constructing arguments
7. Logic applied to practical situations

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: The individual faculty member will determine the appropriate mix of exams, quizzes, individual assignments, group projects research projects, oral presentations, group debates, term papers, class participation, etc.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth in knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, in a career, and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect student to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework and other assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain high-quality programs and will periodically ask you to participate in assessment activities to determine whether our students are attaining the knowledge, attitudes, and skills appropriate to various courses and programs. The assessment activities may take many different forms such as improvement surveys, standardized or faculty-developed tests, discussion groups, or portfolio evaluations. We ask that you take these activities seriously so that we can obtain valid data to use for the continuous improvement of CCBC's courses and programs.