



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## PHI 215 L00.A

### Critical Thinking

### Fall 2019

#### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Monday 8:00AM – 10:30AM

**Room Number:** E201 (or president's office, class size permitting)

#### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Barry Creamer, Ph.D.

**Instructor Email:** bcream@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1326

**Instructor Office Hours:** before and after class, or by appointment

#### Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of the principles of sound reasoning with an emphasis on developing the critical skills necessary for thinking well. Attention is given to problem solving, rational argumentation, and the evaluation of common methods of reasoning.

#### Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student should demonstrate the ability to:

1. Express the relationship between propositional and predicate logic on one hand and reality (or descriptions of reality) on the other;
2. Analyze systematically the structure of sound and unsound arguments;
3. Demonstrate the ability to organize ideas for effective communication (conversely, demonstrate the ability to reduce natural language to discrete claims for analysis);
4. Investigate claims and tenets about Christ, Christianity, and Scripture using the tools of logic.

#### Required Textbooks

Sibley, Jack R. *Logic for Life*. (Distributed in class. Reprinted by author's permission.)

#### Recommended Reading

Priest, Graham. *Logic: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. 2001.

#### Course Requirements and Assignments

1. Readings and Chapter Reviews: Discussion in class about each week's readings and weekly review questions (at the end of each chapter). On occasion, the online review questions may be replaced by the requirement for a one page reading or discussion summary from the student about the material from that week's chapter. 50% of the course grade.

2. Mid-Term Exam: An objective mid-term exam based primarily on the Sibley text. 25% of the course grade.
3. Term Paper: A term paper of approximately 10 pages (2500 words or less). The paper will examine a biblical text, theological topic, or culturally relevant issue using specifically identified tools of logic related to the course. The paper must identify and examine the logical structure of the text, topic, or issue (its key propositions and their argumentative relation to each other) and then its content. As many students as possible will present their paper in class. 25% of the course grade.

## **Class Attendance**

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## **Grading Scale**

A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour

## **Incomplete Grades**

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

## **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

## **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Support**

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar:

Date	Topic	Information
8/19	Introduction to the Course Logic and God/Logic's Limit Logic and Language	Sibley Introduction Sibley 1
8/26	Linguistic Fallacies	Sibley 2
9/2	Labor Day: American праздник Первого мая	No Class Meeting
9/9	Material Fallacies Warranted Decisions	Sibley 3 Sibley 4
9/16	Analyzing the Proposition Immediate Inference and Opposition	Sibley 5 Sibley 6
9/23	Transformation: Obversion and Conversion	Sibley 7
9/30	Reasoning: Definition and Application The Categorical Syllogism	Sibley 8 Sibley 9
10/7	Enthymematic Argumentation Practical Argumentation	Sibley 10 Sibley 11
10/14	Symbolic or Sentential Logic	Sibley 12
10/21	Truth Tables	
10/28	<b>Mid-Exam Due</b>	
11/4	Basics of Predicate and Modal Logic In-class paper topics and strategy discussion	
11/11	<b>Final Paper Due</b> , Paper Presentations	
11/18	Paper Presentations	
11/25	Fall Break for Thanksgiving	
12/2	Paper Presentations	
12/9	Meet by Appt. for Paper Feedback	