

English 07: Critical Thinking Spring 2013

Prof. Wm. A. Wilson

FO 223; Office Hours: MTW 330-430 & by Appt.

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Course Description: Engl 07 satisfies GE Area A3 for undergraduates. It is an examination of critical thinking from a variety of traditions. The first part of the course will explore the basic procedures, forms and problems encountered by those who wish to think critically. We will also explore the structures of argumentation, the relationship between language and logic and between rhetoric and logic, as well as the benefits and limits of deduction and induction. The second part of the semester will look at various cases studies of human actions and decisions to see why we often think uncritically and act irrationally, despite our best efforts not to. The schedule lists assignments and the Student Learning Objectives met by individual assignments; the full list of SLOs is found at www.sjsu.edu/ugs/ge/guidelines.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This course is conducted under the University's integrity policy. All infractions will be reported by the instructor. The official statement can be found at www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-14.pdf.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students who need accommodations for disabilities must register with the DRC within three weeks of the beginning of the semester. The full University policy on students with disabilities may be found at www.drc.sjsu.edu.

Course Requirements and Grading: Class Participation 10%; Writing Assignments, in class and out 30%; hourly tests 20% Final exam 40%. Late submissions will be penalized, and all written work must be submitted in order to have a chance at passing the class.

Required Text:

Sheila Cooper, *Writing Logically, Thinking Critically* (7th ed.)

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (*Subject to Change*)

Aug 26: Introduction

Sep 09: WL chs 1 and 2

16: WL ch 3

23: WL ch 4

30: Test #1

Oct 07: WL ch 5

14: WL ch 6

21: WL ch 6 cont'd; Essay #1

28: WL ch 7; Research Methods

Nov 04: Test #2

11: WL Ch 8

18: WL pp. 209-233

25: Test #3

Dec 02: Essay #2 Due

09: Review; Project Due