PHIL 12: Logic and Decision-Making, Spring 2012   **MWF 10 – 10:50   Solis 104**

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SYLLABUS

Course Description

This class is a systematic introduction to the principles of critical reasoning and sound decision making. We focus on three important human endeavors: gathering useful evidence, making reliable inferences from gathered evidence, and making rational decisions based on analysis of evidence. We will examine methods that have been developed to aid us in the pursuit of these goals in the context of both scientific inquiry and everyday decision-making. There are no prerequisites for the class.

Course Googlegroup

While you are free to e-mail me anytime, our primary means of communication outside of class will be through our course googlegroup: http://groups.google.com/group/phil-12-ucsd-spring-2012. All enrolled students **must** sign-up for regular e-mail updates from this group. Do this **right away** (You do not have to have a gmail account). I will make accouncements on here that are important, as well as put the homework assignments on here. If you don't get them (soon enough), it's on you. Also, if you have questions, in addition to asking me or Tim, you can ask the googlegroup. Since everyone will have signed up and will get regular email updates, everyone is in a position to help one another. Please consider clarifying misunderstandings and confusions from class by asking questions on the group! Your peers often have the very same concerns.

All of the required reading for this class will be in the form of the Powerpoint slides over which I will lecture and pdf's that will be available on the …

Course Website

Since googlegroups no longer hosts large documents, there is also a website for the course: https://sites.google.com/site/ucsdphil12spring2012. Here you will find the lecture materials for the course, which consist of pdfs made from my powerpoint presentations. I will generally make the pdf for each lecture available on the site *after* the lecture. So in general you will not have to do any reading before lectures (it is possible I will send things to the googlegroup I want you to read beforehand, but this will not be the norm). What you *will* have to do is show up for the lectures really ready to pay attention. The lectures are only 50 minutes so you should be able to do that. Then you can use the pdfs to help with homeworks and to prepare for exams.

Course Requirements

First, you will need to purchase the i-clicker. For those who already have the i-clicker, you do not need to but might wish to purchase the i-clicker2 (As of fall quarter, if you give them your i-clicker, they give you a $10 rebate on the iclicker2. I don't know if this still applies). The iclicker2 has some improvements, but it isn't necessary. When you get your iclicker, go to the website to register it: http://www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker/. For your student ID, **use your ucsd email address**.

If you already have your clicker registered using a different ID, re-register it using your ucsd email address.

There are too many of you for me to be able to deal with clicker issues, including you not having one. You just have to get one, and pronto. I cannot accept quiz answers written on paper or anything like that. If you forget your clicker on any given day, you just won't be able to get credit for the quizzes in that lecture; please don't ask because I am definitely going to say no. So bring it every time. **Important! You need to get your clickers by the second lecture (Wednesday).** Quizzes will begin that day, and if you don't have a clicker, you will not be able to get credit for the quiz.

Attendance at lectures and sections is required. You can expect to do very poorly if you miss lectures. The course will be podcast, but you can't take the quizzes via podcast. Podcasts are not optional ways of taking the class, but are there for students who have to miss a lecture or want to listen as they review the slides. If you have work or any other conflicts with lecture, please **eliminate either that conflict or this class**.

Grading

1) Quizzes. There will be quizzes in all or nearly all the lectures, but not the introductory one. You will use your i-clickers for these: 20%
2) Section attendance/participation: 10%
3) Midterm exam: 20%.
4) Homeworks: 25%
5) Final Exam: 25%

Academic Integrity

UCSD policy: http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm.

Miscellaneous

Laptops are not allowed in lecture or section, and neither are cell phones (where I or Tim can see them). Seriously. It's for your benefit, other students' benefit, and my benefit. No usage of any other electronic equipment of any kind during lecture unless you have a documented disability that requires it. I hope I don't have to penalize people for using laptops or texting or any such thing, but I will if I have to. I have tried to have a policy of allowing laptops for note-taking only in lecture but it hasn't worked. Though I try to make the course interesting, it can still be very difficult to resist getting distracted by your computers and phones. It will be better for you to simply not have the temptation. Several people failed this class the last time I taught it. I am confident that nobody needs to fail this class, and I think that if people paid attention in lecture, nobody would. I am making it easier for you to pay attention by not allowing these things (you're welcome). Also, seeing people staring at their laptops when I am talking to them is really distracting. Please feel free to take notes on paper during lecture, but normally the most important thing will be to pay attention, since you can always go back to the pdf's later. You may of course print these out and bring them to class, but that is a lot of printing.

If you require special accommodations of any sort, please let me know on the first day of class.