

DAY

PHILOSOPHY 001

CRITICAL THINKING

SPRING SEMESTER 2003

INSTRUCTOR: R. FELDMAN, PH.D.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *Reason and Argument*, Richard Feldman, Prentice Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Whenever we are wondering about what's right or wrong, what's true or false, what's to be believed or disbelieved, what's to be done or not done, we are engaged in critical thinking. This course is designed to help you develop your critical thinking skills. It will do this by teaching you how to analyze arguments, how to evaluate evidence, how to construct arguments, and how to apply these skills to a variety of issues. The course will also help you to become a more effective writer and speaker. You will learn how to organize your thoughts, how to express them clearly, and how to persuade others. The course will be taught in a Socratic style, with the instructor asking questions that will help you to think for yourself. You will be expected to participate actively in class discussions and to complete assignments that will help you to apply what you have learned.

It should make you a better student, a better citizen, and a better person. What is being said in a textbook, letter to the editor, or in a speech? Are the facts that are important? If you can think critically, you will be able to answer these questions and many others.

By the end of the course, you should be able to: identify the issues in a problem, analyze arguments, evaluate evidence, construct arguments, and apply these skills to a variety of issues.

You should also be able to become a more effective writer and speaker. You will learn how to organize your thoughts, how to express them clearly, and how to persuade others.

YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS THAT WILL HELP YOU TO APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.

PHILOSOPHY 001, FALL 2002