



COURSE EXPECTATION LETTER

Subject:

PHIL 110 Critical Thinking

Email Contact Information:

sdixon@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the methods and techniques of informal reasoning. Topics include schematizing and articulating arguments, causal arguments, analogical arguments, testimony arguments, informal fallacies, and others. Emphasis on the application of critical thinking for effective writing will be reflected in the frequency, scope, and nature of course writing assignments, which will be evaluated with regard to both content and form. Students should expect to write approximately 8000 words in various writing assignments. This course is appropriate for students seeking to improve their writing and reasoning skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Given a lengthy source, students will correctly summarize a single sentence paraphrase.

Given a real world source, students will accurately schematize its argument.

Presented with a research topic, students will demonstrate an ability to write an argumentative essay.

Presented with an argument, students will correctly articulate the relevance of reasons to conclusions.

Presented with examples of each, students will distinguish fact from opinion.

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to [Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore](#)

Over the course of the semester there will be regular instructor student contact.

Methods of student contact include:

Timely e-mail and direct message through Canvas responses (generally, within 24 hours, excluding weekends or special circumstances).

Video/Audio-recorded lectures.

Regular course announcements and updates.

Timely feedback on quizzes, reflections, and writing assignments where needed.

Zoom meetings during student hours when requested.

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientation can be found at: <http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/>

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](#) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.

Additional Information:

This course requires logging in and participating at least times a week to complete all work in a satisfactory manner. Students should expect to post in the discussions at least 2-3 times per week on different days and not just on the weekends. This course has an initial steep learning curve through Module 3, so students should expect to spend more time early on in the semester to gain competency with the argument model that is applied throughout the rest of the semester. Finally, the course discusses mature topics (murder, sexual assault, missing persons, poisoning soldiers, etc...) and may not be appropriate for some students.