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BUS 210.01: Critical Analysis for Business

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**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Created by Thomas Stanton

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT STATEMENT: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: BUS 210T Critical Analysis for Business

PREREQUISITES: ENEX 101 or equivalent, or similar writing course as approved by instructor, or approval by instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an analysis, critical thinking, and writing course for students in the Business Technology fields. Students will also be introduced to traditional Western philosophy through study and discussion of Socrates, Plato and, Aristotle. To that end, students will analyze theories of knowledge and morality in relationship to current events within American Democracy and Law. Students will practice identifying elements of arguments, analyzing elements of arguments for logic, and developing coherent and comprehensive responses to arguments. This course will emphasize practical application rather than purely academic exercise.

CREDITS AWARDED UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION: 3

REQUIRED TEXT: Writing Style and Format Guide such as The Everyday Writer by Andrea Lunsford, Fourth Edition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

1. Identify and Research the origins of Western thought and philosophy
2. Identify and Research the origins of law
3. Identify and Research the elements of an argument
4. Test the elements of an argument for logic, truth, accuracy, coherence, completeness, and other bases.
5. Explain how the elements of an argument combine, or fail to combine, to establish a valid position.
6. Discuss alternative points of view regarding researched topics and provide arguments for and against conclusions drawn from researched topics.
7. Distinguish validity of arguments based on factors such as logic, emotion, faith, statistics, cost/benefit analysis, and other elements.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Group and individual Class Presentations
- 3) Writing and editing
- 4) In class Research and Analysis Projects
- 5) Outline drafting and development
- 6) Interactive Topic Discussion

METHODS OF VALUATION:

Students will be graded in three general areas:

In Class participation/Research presentation: 15%

In Class Peer Paper Review/Editing 15%

Paper Writing/Rewriting 70%

Paper writing and rewriting is a difficult process when done correctly.

Accordingly, the first paper is a short (300 to 500 word) writing sample based on an in-class ethical discussion and will act as an indicator of students' writing abilities (10%). The next two papers, which are similar in type (research type papers) will be graded together as they will represent the initial student submissions and will allow students to learn and then write to instructor specifications (20%). Students will submit drafts for instructor comment with a final version due the following week. Thereafter, drafts will not be required unless otherwise determined by the instructor. The third paper is designed to be an analysis paper of a current event such as a recent case holding or a local political issue requiring both research to understand the issue and analysis of the validity of the arguments presented (20%). The final paper is created using multi-step a problem solving formula and students will be graded both on their informal ideas and their formal essays (20%).

GRADING SCALE

A: 100-93%

B: 92-85%

C: 84-77%

D: 76-70%

F: below 70%

DETAILED OUTLINE OF SUBJECT AREAS:

Week 1

Introduction; Syllabus Review; Course Nature and Assignment Discussion

Writing Assignment 1: Class Discussion: "Doing the Right Thing"

Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, Syntax, Style, Writing Rules Part 1

Research Assignment 1: Socrates

Week 2

Introduction: Technical Writing
In Class Exercise: Instructions/Description Writing
In Class Discussion: The ideas of Socrates
Writing Assignment 1: Due
Research Assignment 2: Plato

Week 3

Analysis: Writing Assignment 1
Writing Assignment 2 and 3: Research Papers
Research Paper topic discussion and selection
In Class Exercise: Outlining
In Class Discussion: The Ideas of Plato

Week 4

In Class Discussion: The Ideas of Plato (continued)
In Class Exercise: Peer review of outline for Writing Assignment 2
Writing Assignment 2: Discussion of content, structure, individual writing problems
Research Assignment 3: Plato: The Forms, The Allegory of the Cave, The Divided Line

Week 5

In Class Discussion: The Ideas of Aristotle
In Class Exercise: Peer and Instructor Review Writing Assignment 2 Draft
In Class Discussion: Writing Assignment 3 Topics
Research Assignment 4: Aristotle
Due: Draft of Writing Assignment 2

Week 6

In Class Discussion: Letters to the Editor/Opinion Page
In Class Discussion: Elements of Argument, Response, Order, Logic
Research Assignment 5: Aristotle: The Soul, The Unmoved Mover
Due: Final version Writing Assignment 2

Week 7

Class Groups Presentations: Research on Writing Assignment 3: Topic Analysis
Analysis of Presentations
In Class Analysis and Review: Writing Assignment 2
Research Assignment 6: Democracy and Sources of The Law

Week 8

In Class Discussion: Legal Cases, Elements, Briefing, Logic, Social Impact, Statutes Addressed
Class Groups Presentations: Stella Awards/Case Impact on Society Analysis

Class Group Discussions: Stella Awards (When Law finds the wrong answer)

Week 9

Writing Assignment 3: Peer/Instructor Review

In Class Drafting: Writing Assignment 3

Due: Draft of Writing Assignment 3

Week 10

Review and Discussion: Plato, Aristotle, Democracy, and Law

Due: Final version Writing Assignment 3

Week 11

In Class Exercise: Analysis of Writing Assignment 3

In Class Discussion: Law and Public Opinion

In Class Exercise: Briefing Case for Writing Assignment 4

In Class Exercise: Outlining Writing Assignment 4

Week 12

In Class Review Case Research, Social Impact, Analysis for Writing Assignment 4

Individual Presentations: Research Writing Assignment 4

In Class Writing Exercise for Writing Assignment 4

Peer Review/ Draft Writing Assignment 4

Week 13

Discussion Writing Assignment 5: Problem Solving

In Class Exercise: Writing Assignment 5: Example/Demonstration

Writing Assignment 4: Due

Week 14

In Class Review Writing Assignment 5

Analysis Writing Assignment 4

Class Review: Assignments, Discussions, Critique

Week 15

In Class Peer Review/Writing Assignment 5

Finals Week

Final Paper Due

Addendum: This class schedule is tentative and is subject to change due to anticipated guest speakers and subjects of expanded concentration or review.

SYLLABUS REVISION DATE: January 2015

ATTENDANCE POLICY: An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of every class. All students are expected to attend every class unless excused by the instructor prior to class. Failure to attend will adversely affect a student's grade, possibly to the point of failure.

CLASS MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:40 PM to 2:00 PM, in Room HB 07.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION STATEMENT: If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss the matter and mutually craft an appropriate resolution prior to any situation that might give rise to the special consideration requested. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS coordinator. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (voice/text).

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION: Thomas H. Stanton, Tom.Stanton@umontana.edu, (406) 243-7850, Faculty Office, (North-East corner Business Administration Building, East Campus), Office hours by appointment or see schedule on office door.

MISSED/LATE COURSE WORK POLICY:

Late or incomplete homework and/or class presentation and/or papers will not be accepted for credit. An exception to this policy may be created by the instructor on a case by case basis depending on circumstances. Such circumstances must be submitted in writing along with the late or incomplete material.

TESTING POLICY:

Make up tests or quizzes will not be given unless the instructor is contacted at least one hour prior to the scheduled time for the test or quiz.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Please turn off cell phones before class begins as they are distracting to faculty and other students. NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to physically disable offending communicating devices.