

PHIL 12: Logic and Scientific Reasoning, Fall 2011
TTH 11 – 12:20 Solis 104
Instructor: Eric Campbell
Office hours: HSS 8056 Tue. 1 to 3
Email: ecampbel@ucsd.edu

T.A.s: Chris Pariso and Andy Beck
Chris's email: cpariso@ucsd.edu
Chris's OH: T 1 – 2 HSS 8085
Andy's email: aebeck@ucsd.edu
Andy's OH: W, TH 10 – 11 Café Roma

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/ucsd-phil-12-fall-2011>. 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 announcements 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 one of the ta's, 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 and pdfs over which I will lecture and which will be available on the ...

Course Website

Since googlegroups no longer hosts large documents, there is a website for the course: <https://sites.google.com/site/ucsdphil12fall2011/>. Here you will find the lecture materials for the course. I will have pdfs of the powerpoint presentations on this site available before the lectures. As these materials are the only readings for the course, you are strongly recommended to go over these pdfs before the course. Every lecture will have quizzes, which will be easier if you have gone over the pdfs beforehand, rather than being exposed to the information for the first time just prior to being quizzed on it. The lecture materials are also available for you to consult to help you with the homeworks and exams.

Course Requirements

First and foremost, 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 (If you give them the i-clicker they give you a \$10 rebate on the iclicker2 .). The new one has some improvements,

including the ability for you to see that your answers have been registered. There are a lot of students in the class and I will not be able to spend time dealing with clicker issues beyond what is absolutely necessary. I am trying to save you money by not having any required readings and allowing you to use the older i-clickers. **Important!** You need to get your clickers by the second lecture, Tuesday the 27th. Quizzes will begin that day, and if you don't have a clicker, you will not be able to get credit. Again, 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.

Attendance at lectures and sections is required. You can expect to do very poorly if you miss lectures. I understand that the course will be podcast, but you can't take the quizzes that way. Podcasts are not optional ways of taking the class, but rather 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.**

You will also be assigned 4 homeworks, a midterm exam and a final.

Grading

- 1) Quizzes. These will be scattered throughout all the lectures, except the intro. 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 to be used for the sole purpose of taking notes. Seriously. It's for your benefit, other students' benefit, and my benefit. And please, no texting or phone usage (or any other electronic equipment) of any kind during lecture or section. I hope I don't have to assign a penalty for doing so; while it is a rule, I'd like it if you did it out of a sense of consideration and respect for me, your T.A. (in section) and the other students, as well as your own benefit. While I fully (and painfully) understand the impulse to go online, watch a movie, email or whatever when your attention drifts, I consider it disrespectful and am very distracted by it (it's not hard to tell the difference between being on facebook and taking notes), **as are other students who can see it.** Please disconnect your wireless capability when or before you get to class. It will make it easier not to be tempted.

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