

Thinking Straight Critical Reasoning WS 9-2 (May 27, 2011)

Note on the Portfolio of Arguments (from workshop sheet)

Your *Portfolio of Arguments* should consist of at least 10 selections. You need to identify the (main) conclusion in all 10. For at least 7, reconstruct the argument or theory into the standard forms as outlined in the text and provide criticism. For any deductive arguments, clearly indicate whether they are sound (that is valid with true premises) You should attempt, whenever possible to apply the six-step technique presented in Chapter 11. The minimal form of the item is the copy of the passage in question with annotations in the margins (That is, with the reconstructed argument, including implicit premises or conclusion, a statement about whether it is valid—and criticism focused on specific premises.) More elaborate criticism should be placed on separate (preferably word-processed sheet) placed after the copy of the passage. The Portfolio is due on the last day of class (Friday, June 3) but will be accepted earlier. You may submit a write up of the two items from today's workshop as part of the Portfolio.

In addition, you may submit a program notebook containing assignments, exams, papers, notes and any additional material that would give me a broader picture of your work in the program. If you do so, the portfolio can be a section in this notebook.

Exam II Directions

Exam II Critical Reasoning Portion: 75 points + up to 30 Extra Credit, Ethical Reasoning Portion (20 points + up to 30 Points Extra Credit) This is a closed-book test. It should take about an hour and a half. Use this exam sheet for your answers. If you need more space write on a separate sheet. Partial credit may be given You may leave when you are done. If you have any questions about what is being asked in the exam, speak with David. Once you finish, consider using any additional time to meet with your Critical Exchange group (or some part of it). Class will resume at 1 pm a critical exchange preparation session. Before you leave for lunch each team should sign up on the sheet at the front of the room for a time to talk with David Teams should bring in materials and be prepared to indicate what graphics they might use, either through a “story board” or actual draft PowerPoint presentation.

Review Items for Exam II

Critical Reasoning Portion-- Know the Basic Valid Deductive Argument Patterns+

- Chapter 6: Characterization (definition) of a fallacy. For a passage, you should be able to state the name of the fallacy committed e.g. *false dilemma*, explain why it is a bad argument and why it still might be persuasive. You should be able to make a reasoned judgment about whether an “apparent fallacy” actually is a fallacy.
- Chapter 7: Characterization of the difference between vagueness and ambiguity, criticism of arguments which include an equivocation, reconstruction of conceptual theories in “standard form,” evaluation (criticism) of conceptual theories by finding a counterexample, citing lack of elucidation, and showing that conditions are incompatible. identification (and criticism) of arguments that include a conceptual theory as a premise.
- Chapter 8: Distinguishing inductive and deductive arguments, criticizing arguments that generalize.
- Chapter 9: Criticizing arguments that move from correlation to cause, identifying and criticizing analogical arguments, reconstructing an argumentative passage as convergent argument using appropriate evaluation (criticism).
- Chapter 10: Reconstructing passages involving empirical theories in terms of theory and regularity, criticizing empirical theory by finding alternatives and producing doubtful prediction. Criticizing a theory as untestable or the defense of a theory as *ad hoc*.
- Chapter 11: Applying the techniques of reconstruction and evaluation (criticism) to passages
- Chapter 12: Be able to state the dilemma of an amateur in a world of experts, the problems with two ways of not facing the dilemma (relativism or dogmatic “true belief”) and the proposed solution in the text

Ethical Reasoning Portion

Be able to state present the major ethical theories we have discussed as conceptual theories of the form A act is morally right if and only _____ and to criticize them using the techniques for criticizing conceptual arguments