Minnesota State University Moorhead

PHIL 110: Practical Reasoning

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

An introduction to critical thinking, with emphasis on understanding the logic of everyday arguments, interpreting the arguments of others, detecting fallacies, and constructing good arguments. MnTC Goal 2.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Argument analysis
2. Basic elements of deductive and inductive arguments
3. Logical fallacies and their detection
4. Argument construction
5. Argument evaluation

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Explain basic logical concepts as they relate to deductive and inductive arguments.
2. Evaluate soundness of deductive arguments.
3. Evaluate soundness of inductive arguments.
4. Identify basic logical fallacies and logical flaws in arguments.
5. Identify and evaluate unstated assumptions in arguments.
6. Construct sound or cogent arguments supported by data that are clear, accurate and relevant.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted