

Phil 57 (“Logic and Critical Reasoning”) overview

Instructor information:

Prof. Janet D. Stemwedel Dept. of Philosophy, FOB 232
Email: jstemwed@email.sjsu.edu Office phone: 408-924-4521
Office Hours: Tu Th 9 - 10 am, or by appointment.

Class meetings:

Section 3: Tu Th 12:00 pm – 1:15 am, BBC 203

Course website: <http://www.stemwedel.org/logic-and-critical-reasoning/>

Desire2Learn: <http://sjsu.desire2learn.com>

Your Desire2Learn username can be found by logging into your mySJSU account. Click on **Self Service > Campus Personal Information > Names**, and locate your Desire2Learn name (look for Name Type called D2L) from the list. Your initial D2L password is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

D2L help: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/>

Course description: This course will be an introduction to logic and critical reasoning. In logic we will be studying argument identification, fallacy identification, sentential logic, and formally evaluating arguments using techniques such as truth tables. In critical reasoning we will be examining argumentation “in the wild” and writing short critical essays on current events. (GE Area A3)

Course requirements and grading:

5 **quizzes**, in class (lowest grade dropped, 50%)
2 **short papers**, reconstructing and evaluating an argument, 500 words each (20%)
longer essay, developing and defending an argument, 1000 words (20%)
Class participation (10%)

Quiz #1 in class Tu Sep. 14

Homework problems: There will be homework problems every week, some which we will do during class meetings, some which you will do on your own to discuss at the next class meeting. I will not be collecting or grading these homework problems, but there will be significant overlap between the homework problems and the quizzes, so keeping up with the homework (and our discussion of the problems in class) is in your best interests.

Required text:

Merrilee H. Salmon, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (5th edition)

FINAL EXAM: Longer Essay due Tuesday, December 14, 2010, by 12 noon.

Greensheet:

http://www.stemwedel.org/logic-and-critical-reasoning/F10_greensheet.html