TEXTS:
S. Morris Engel’s WITH GOOD REASON, (WGR), 6th ed. 2000
St. Martin’s Press, New York.

P. S. Schievella, Sebastian Publishing Co. NY

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:
1. Learn, distinguish, and use clear, critical, and analytical thinking skills.
2. Acquire a critical, analytical, and discriminating attitude.
3. Recognize correct as opposed to fallacious reasoning.
4. Recognize the significance and convey the importance of unambiguous, precise, and objective definitions of words.
5. Stick to the point of an argument.
6. Develop an ability to distinguish between a) the trivial and the significant, b) the relevant and irrelevant, c) mere opinion (i.e., unwarranted belief), and educated opinion, if verifiable (i.e., warranted belief), d) belief and knowledge, and particularly the difference between falsifiable and unfalsifiable claims.
7. Learn the sources of your beliefs and that warranted beliefs require verifiable evidence and sound reasoning (i.e., true premises and valid arguments).
8. Develop the ability to analyze and evaluate the truth-values of statements and beliefs.
9. Recognize the distinctions between induction and deduction, and necessary and sufficient conditions.
10. Apply skills effectively to mathematical, scientific, theistic, and ordinary uses of hypotheticals and language when making claims to having truth and knowledge.
11. Learn the NECESSARY POINTS OF AGREEMENT FOR RATIONAL INQUIRY AND ARGUMENTATION (i.e., facts and principles). See page 137 of the text, CRITICAL ANALYSIS for the fundamentals of this course.

PROCEDURES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE OBJECTIVES:
A) Lectures;
B) Assignments;
C) Class discussion;
D) Term paper.

COURSE-STUDY REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNING A COURSE GRADE:
No student may interpret anything in this course outline or anything said in class or thought or heard contrary to it to mean that he/she is exempt from fulfilling any of its requirements.
YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED BY:
One three-hour class is the equivalent of two day classes.
PARTICIPATION (Being present, asking questions and offering statements pertinent to the issues—not monopolizing class time with personal opinions and beliefs.) Final-grade value is 5%.
DURING CLASS HOURS, for any reason, whatsoever, absence from the room equals ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR REDUCTION OF YOUR FINAL GRADE.

In a subject of this kind, student participation usually puts us off schedule. In your STUDIES, stay ahead of the scheduled material.

2. FOUR OUT OF FIVE SHORT-ANSWER QUIZZES. Final grade is 20%. One lowest grade (including a zero for a missed quiz) out of five will be dropped. Make up of missed quizzes is not permitted except in the case of proven illness with doctor’s note or in the case of death in the immediate family.
3. MIDTERM EXAMINATION. Final grade is 25%
4. TERM PAPER. Final grade is 25%
5. FINAL EXAMINATION: Final grade is 25%
6. Periodically during the semester, review the addenda, pp. 117-144, in CRITICAL ANALYSIS. The fallacies, chapters 1 and 2 in WGR and pages 131-144 in CA constitute the fundamentals of this course).

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Students, WHETHER PRESENT OR ABSENT, are responsible for announcements and class content, which may occur in their absence or presence, by consulting WITH THEIR CLASSMATES. All quizzes and exams will be announced in advance.

TERM PAPER:

Show, passingly, not extensively, that the unreliability of perceptions and conceptions brings into question the truth (1) of what we believe we know and (2) of the language with which we make claims to knowledge. This issue requires a thorough explication of REFERENTS related to symbols [i.e., in the text CA, show that you understand 1) the footnote on p. 37, and 2) pp. 40 through 50.] SUMMARIZE your understanding of the complexity of referents BEYOND THE FOUR BASIC KINDS of referents referred to in the last paragraph of page 44 in YOUR OWN WORDS. Each page of 23 full lines constitutes a value of 20 points. Participating in class discussions on this issue is vital.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING THE TERM PAPER
Definition of “Summary of pages 40 through 50 with very short reference to Pages 36 through 39”

Simply put: In your own words, explain in detail what a referent is as delineated in the footnote on page 37, AND DELINEATE WHAT EACH PARAGRAPH FROM PAGE 40 THROUGH 50 is “saying” in your own words. DO NOT WRITE ABOUT THEORIES OF TRUTH, OR KNOWLEDGE, OR COMMUNICATION
1. Students are expected to submit neatly and competently written, organized, TYPED term papers with a professional appearance, a TITLE PAGE, and a MINIMUM of 5 NUMBERED pages averaging 23 FULL lines per page with ONE INCH margins.

2. EDIT YOUR PAPER FOR GRAMMAR AND SPELLING. For help, attend the Writing Center and/or engage a study partner. For help understanding the issues, I will be available immediately after class.

3. Take notes from day one while studying your text assignments (not to be confused with classroom notes and handouts). Retain duplicate copies of your paper. Quoting the professor’s classroom remarks WITHOUT GIVING CREDIT is parroting (a form of plagiarizing), does not demonstrate understanding, and is not considered a SUMMARY of pages 40 through 50. Rearranging, inserting, or adding words to a sentence from the text is plagiarizing and severely affects one’s standing at the college.

4. Papers may be submitted at the student’s discretion but no later than TWO WEEKS before the final examination to avoid a ten-point penalty. Incompletes, ESPECIALLY papers handed in on the day of the FINAL EXAM, are LATE submissions. ONE revision, for a better grade, is permitted and must be submitted at least four weeks BEFORE the day of the final exam. Absolute requirement: Follow the TERM-PAPER outline to be submitted to you later or at your request.

5. The first draft must be resubmitted WITH your final submission.

ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR (Loss of points from course grade)

1) Absence from the classroom FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, during class instruction is considered NON PARTICIPATION and is punishable by a loss of one point per absence deductible from one’s course grade.

2) TALKING TO CLASSMATES, without permission, during class instruction is punishable by one point deductible from one’s course grade for each offense.

3) Cell phones must remain in one’s purse or pocket. A ringing cell phone is punishable by one point per ringing deductible from the course grade.

4) Late for class is punishable by one point and deductible from the course grade.

5) Students who repeatedly do not bring their textbooks to class will be punished with a deduction of 5 points from their course grade.

6) Students who wish to record the class lectures must place their cell phones, i.e., recording devices on the teacher’s desk.

Prompt and regular attendance is VITALLY important. Students are expected to attend every class session WITH PEN AND TEXT BOOKS. It is the student’s responsibility to acquire class notes, handouts, and assignments if a class is missed. Excessive absences, defined as missing more than three hours of class, may lead to a grade of W or F. Nine lates equal three absences.
Leaving class near the end of the period is equivalent to a late and in the middle of a class is equivalent to an absence. Students needing to leave a class must inform the professor before the class begins. Disruptions like talking, eating, leaving and re-entering the room, arriving late to class, and beepers going off carry LOSS-OF-CREDIT consequences.

**COLLEGE’S GUIDELINES FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS:**

1) Attend all your classes.
2) Come to class fully prepared and ready to participate.
3) Meet the requirements established by the professor.
4) Listen, question, and respond (RESPECTFULLY AND OBJECTIVELY), including when responding to fellow students.
5) Allocate adequate study time: TWO TO THREE HOURS of study for EVERY HOUR SPENT IN CLASS.
6) Avoid last-minute cramming.
7) Create a weekly study schedule and study EVERY DAY.
8) Make academic responsibilities a priority (INCLUDING OVER YOUR JOB), in your daily life.

“OFFICE HOURS”: Immediately after class.

**BOTH TEXTS MUST BE STUDIED FROM BEGINNING TO END** with the following exceptions: In WITH GOOD REASON, only chapters 1 and 2 and the fallacies cited below in chapters 3, 4, and 5 are required to be studied.

**WEEKLY CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Opening class: Introduction, general remarks, and preview of the nature of the subject matter, through examples from daily life, explicating the relationships involved in clear, critical, and analytical thinking, one to the others, which relate to our uses and abuses of language. READ pages 6 through 28 (WGR) and 117-131 (CA).

To quote Morris Engel from his text WITH GOOD REASON: “---WE PUT REASONING INTO WORDS—IN SPEAKING, IN WRITING, OR SILENTLY TO OURSELVES. BECAUSE LANGUAGE PLAYS SUCH A VITAL ROLE IN ARGUMENT, CHAPTER 2 UNDERTAKES TO SENSITIZE THE READER TO THE CAPACITY THAT WORDS HAVE TO ENRICH, DISTORT, SPECIFY, OBSCURE, SHARPEN, OR CONFUSE, OUR THINKING. WE SHALL SEE THAT PRECISE USE OF LANGUAGE IS CLOSELY TIED TO PRECISE USE OF REASON.” (My italics)

The fallacies will be dealt with and referred to throughout the semester’s work: WGR.

Week: 1. equivocation

   hypostatization

2. hasty generalization

   begging the question
3. ad hominem attacks
   appeal to authority
   appeal to ignorance


6. Referents continued.

7. Language: kinds, abuses, ambiguities, and functions: WGR: 70-72, 75; CA: 51-82

8. Theories and problems of truth as functions of language: CA: 82-98.


10. MIDTERM TEST. The ambiguous and loose uses of terms like ‘true’ and ‘truth,’ ‘know’ and knowledge,’ ‘cause and effect,’ ‘hypotheticals’ as related to verifiable and falsifiable language.

11. The ambiguous, loose, and different uses of the terms ‘know’ and ‘knowledge’ as related to verifiable and falsifiable language used in every facet of life: human relations, politics, art, culture, religion, philosophy, education, science, art, etc.


13. Review of NECESSARY POINTS OF AGREEMENT FOR RATIONAL ARGUMENT

14. Review continued, FINAL EXAMINATION.