

NAME REMOVED

8/27/18

Phi 169 - Critical Reasoning

Marcello

Class Summary

1. Course description

The course concentrates on a topic of your choice. You must create an investigative question that will yield multiple answers. Using the probability theory, through research and evidence you must find the correct answer.

Investigative Question-->Multiples answers-->Collect evidence--> Probability theory

2. Requirements

The course will consist of 6 pass/fail assignments, class summaries (10%), 2 exams (30%), and a final presentation and report (60%).

Prof. Marcello will randomly select names at the end of each class to write the class summaries that will be due the following day.

3. Examples of topics for investigative questions

The bridge collapse in Italy

The company (Monsanto's) that was responsible for causing a man to have cancer.

Restrictions on investigative question

- Choose an event that has already happened
- The question must have a correct answer although you don't yet know it
- The question cannot have an obvious answer
- The question must be specific enough so that finding an answer is manageable

4. Examples for assignment (Stage 1)

Topic: Bridge Collapse

Questions about definitions

* What is a bridge?

* What is pre-compressed concrete?

Questions about space and time.

*When did the bridge collapse?

Questions about casualty

*What caused the bridge to collapse? (*example of investigative question*)

Questions about morality

*Why was the bridge built over residential areas?

Questions about politics

*What laws should be placed so this won't happen again?

5. Stage 2 assignment

On September 5th, Stage 1 is due. Prof Marcello will be accepting and reviewing assignments during office hours (12pm- 5pm). He will also discuss stage 2 during this time.

6. Questions asked by students:

*What is probability theory?

*What is an investigative question?

*How can you know there's an answer to a question if you don't know the answer?

All questions were well answered. I understood everything that went on in the class.

7. **The good** things about the class is that you have a freedom to choose the topic and the investigative question you want to work on during the semester. There is no required textbook for the class.

8. **Constructive comments.** There has to be a better way to pick the students that have to write the class summaries. Leaving it to chance means that there will be students that get picked more than once and students that don't get picked at all. The class only meets about 10 times that we can write a summary for. Everyone can get to write a summary in a fair manner.