



Critical Thinking

HUM 301

Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

This course prepares learners to critically interpret, synthesize, analyze and evaluate information. It is designed to introduce learners to complex problems and help them come to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Bassham, G., Irwin, W., Nardone, H., & Wallace, J. (2013). *Critical thinking: A student's introduction* (5th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to recognize deductive and inductive arguments
- Identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments and truth claims
- Formulate and present convincing reasoning in support of conclusions
- Draw appropriate inferences from given data
- Identify language problems such as ambiguity, vagueness, and emotionally loaded language
- Recognize common fallacies in every day reasoning
- Use appropriate research in the analysis, construction, and evaluation of arguments
- Recognize and critically assess extended arguments in every day contexts and in various fields

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussion Boards	6	150	15
Papers	2	300	30
Critical Essay Topic	1	50	5
Critical Essay	1	200	20
Group Argument Mapping Project	1	100	10
Mid-Term	1	100	10

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Final Exam	1	100	10
Total Points		1,000	100

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Critical Thinking</i> Page xi, Chapters 1 & 2 View An Introduction to Critical Thinking video View Here Be Dragons video View Intro to Critical Thinking and Reflective Practice video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 Class Participation Unit 1 Paper
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapters 3 & 4 View Logic 101: Introducing Basic Inductive and Deductive Arguments video View Different Types of Arguments video View What is a Good Argument? Validity and Truth video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 Class Participation Unit 2 Paper
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapters 5 – 7 View inFact: Logical Fallacies 1 video View inFact: Logical Fallacies 2 video View inFact: Logical Fallacies 3 video View inFact: Organic Food Myths video View inFact: Detoxification video View inFact: Network Marketing video View inFact: Conspiracy Theories video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 Class Participation Unit 3 Mid-Term
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapters 8 & 9 View The Nature of Arguments video View Evaluating Arguments Part One video View Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 Class Participation Unit 4 Critical Essay Topic & Reference Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read <i>Critical Thinking</i> Chapters 11 & 12 View Evaluating Sources: Popular or Scholarly? video View (Lesson 05) Evaluating Sources video View Info Literacy 4. Libraries & Library Web Sites video View Info Literacy 7. Online Reference Databases video View Info Literacy 10. Evaluating Information Sources video View Evaluating Sources on the World Wide Web video View Credibility Evaluating Sources on the Web video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 Class Participation Unit 5 Critical Essay Paper

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.