



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 program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

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

1. Demonstrate the ability to recognize deductive and inductive arguments
2. Identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments and truth claims
3. Formulate and present convincing reasoning in support of conclusions
4. Draw appropriate inferences from given data
5. Identify language problems such as ambiguity, vagueness, and emotionally loaded language
6. Recognize common fallacies in every day reasoning
7. Use appropriate research in the analysis, construction, and evaluation of arguments
8. 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 found in the instructor-specific syllabus located in the Blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussion Boards	12	300	30
Papers	2	200	20
Critical Essay Topic	1	50	50
Critical Essay	1	150	15
Group Argument Mapping Project	1	100	10
Mid-Term	1	100	10
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"> Page xi Chapters 1 & 2 An Introduction to Critical Thinking video Here Be Dragons video Intro to Critical Thinking and Reflective Practice video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1.1 Discussion Unit 1.2 Discussion Unit 1 Paper
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 3 & 4 Logic 101: Introducing Basic Inductive and Deductive Arguments video Different Types of Arguments video What is a Good Argument? Validity and Truth video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2.1 Discussion Unit 2.2 Discussion Unit 2 Paper
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 5 – 7 inFact: Logical Fallacies 1 video inFact: Logical Fallacies 2 video inFact: Logical Fallacies 3 video inFact: Organic Food Myths video inFact: Detoxification video inFact: Network Marketing video inFact: Conspiracy Theories video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3.1 Discussion Unit 3.2 Discussion Mid-Term
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 8 & 9 The Nature of Arguments video Evaluating Arguments Part One video Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4.1 Discussion Unit 4.2 Discussion Critical Essay Topic & Reference Assignment
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 11 & 12 Evaluating Sources: Popular or Scholarly? video (Lesson 05) Evaluating Sources video Info Literacy 4. Libraries & Library Web Sites video Info Literacy 7. Online Reference Databases video Info Literacy 10. Evaluating Information Sources video Evaluating Sources on the World Wide Web video Credibility Evaluating Sources on the Web video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5.1 Discussion Unit 5.2 Discussion Critical Essay Paper
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 13 – 15 Introduction to Argumentative Essay Type I video How to Write an Introduction to an Argumentative Essay video How to Write a Good Argumentative Essay: Logical Structure video Analyzing the Conclusion of a Sample Argumentative Essay video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6.1 Discussion Unit 6.2 Discussion Group Argument Mapping Project Final Exam

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.