

CRITICAL THINKING

Course No	:	BUS 260
Course Title	:	CRITICAL THINKING
Prerequisites	:	ENG 120
Course Type	:	General-Elective
Faculty Member	:	Dr. ; Room # ; Telephone ; e-mail ;
Office Hours	:	
Class Time	:	
Lecture Class	:	

Course Objectives:

The course aims at enabling students to structure and manage their learning processes, and improve their oral and written communication skills through an appreciation of learning in the exchange of data, information and knowledge. The course also aims to improve the student's ability to analyze and evaluate everyday life arguments and assertions. It instructs students on how to apply fundamental rules of logical reasoning to different media and university-level textbooks arguments.

Course Description:

Critical Thinking is a course designed to help students develop their skills in reasoning, analysis, and the use of logical arguments. This goes hand in hand with the development of their creative writing and oral communication skills. They will also learn how to better interpret and evaluate the material they read and to understand and appreciate viewpoints which are different from their own. Class participation and interaction will be an extremely important part of the learning process. Lectures will be kept to a minimum with emphasis upon practical techniques and application of the materials they are reading.

Course Outline:

1. Modeling the human brain:
 - 1.1. Data, information, experience, knowledge
 - 1.2. Interactive Communication: Interviews
2. The Learning Cycle: Language and concepts.
 - 2.1. 1st Assignment: Oral Presentation
3. Communication theory and effective communication:
 - 3.1. Written communication: CVs and projects
 - 3.2. 2nd Assignment: Written presentation
4. Problem Solving: Modeling problems
 - 4.1. Project: Electronic presentation
5. Deductive arguments: Categorical Logic-arguments Valid/Invalid: Venn Diagrams
6. Deductive Arguments: Truth Functional Logic- Proving arguments valid/invalid: Truth Tables
7. Inductive Arguments and Informal Fallacies; Causal Arguments and Causal Fallacies

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successfully completing the course, the student should be able to:

1. Structure and manage their learning processes.
2. Improve their communicative skills orally and in writing.
3. Improve their presentation skills orally, in writing and electronically.
4. Develop their interactive communication skills in practical matters related to job search, interviews, and employment.
5. Demonstrate competency in understanding, analyzing, and evaluating the language of argumentation.
6. Understand the common fallacies of reasoning and non deductive arguments.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of empirical and conceptual theories and definitions.

Skills to be developed:

This course helps students in developing the following skills:

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| 1. Communication (Oral and written) | Through assignments, case study discussions and examinations |
| 2. Analytical | Through case studies and examinations |
| 3. Team work | Through case studies |
| 4. Creative thinking | Through case studies, assignments, classroom discussions |
| 5. Adaptability to change | Through case studies and examinations |
| 6. Ethics | Through lectures and assignments |
| 7. Use of information technology | |

Evaluating Student Performance:

Class participation and attendance	10%
Individual assignments (two)	20%
Mid-Term Examination	20%
Project presentation	20%
Final Examination	30%

Assignment	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	LO6	LO7
Class Participation	X	X	X	X			
Class Assignments		X	X	X			
Mid-term exam		X			X	X	X
Project			X	X			
Final exam		X			X	X	X

Grading:

Percentage Score	Letter Grade	GPA Points	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	GPA Points
90 - 100	A	4.0	70 - 74	C	2.0
85 - 89	B+	3.5	65 - 69	D+	1.5
80 - 84	B	3.0	60 - 64	D	1.0
75 - 79	C+	2.5	< 60	F	0.0

Educational Resources:

<i>Educational Resource</i>	Description	Comments
Textbooks Required References Computers CD - ROM : Other Resources:	Liverpool JMU Handbook: <u>Personal Development Skills</u> , 2004/05 Al-Khawarizmi Lecture Notes: <u>Reasoning and Communication</u> B.N. Moore and R. Parker, <u>Critical Thinking</u> , McGraw Hill, 2004 F. Blackwell, <u>Thinking with Diagrams</u> , Kluwer Publishers, 2001 J. Leblan, <u>Thinking Clearly</u> , Norton & Co, 1998. W. V. O. Quine, <u>Elementary Logic</u> , Harvard Univ. Press, 2001 (CD-ROM) data base in the library + Action learning through CD accompanying the textbook Library resources, Internet search of periodicals	

Course Schedule & Outline:
Sixteen Week Semester, 4.5 hrs/week

Date	Week	Outline Syllabus	Learning Outcomes	Homework Assignments, Due dates
February 12/2-16/2	1		LO1	
February 19/2-23/2	2		LO2	
May 28/5- 31/5		General Review		