

Introduction

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MGM 115
Critical Thinking

Introduction



About the course:

This course is designed to improve a student's ability to analyse and evaluate the kinds of arguments and theories commonly met with in everyday life. The course also helps students improve their own arguments and presentations by showing them how to draw sound conclusions from available evidence and how to construct well-reasoned cases to support these conclusions.

Although the course focuses on the informal logic of everyday language, it includes some training in elementary formal logic. Students are taught how to apply fundamental rules and standards of logical reasoning to the sorts of arguments encountered in newspapers, magazines and other media, and university-level textbooks in most fields.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of critical and analytical thinking.
- Create well-written answers and opinions about a variety of topics using critical thinking skills and models.
- Detect errors in reasoning and explain how the reasoning is in error
- Evaluate evidence and make appropriate inferences from that evidence
- Experience group dynamics through collaborative learning activities during the semester.
- Analyze and interpret data.

Topics:

- Introduction: The Language of Argumentation
- Analyzing Arguments: Content and Structure
- Evaluating Arguments: Validity, Soundness, and Problems of Interpretation
- Syllogistic Reasoning
- Common Fallacies of Reasoning
- Nondeductive Arguments
- The Use and Misuse of Statistics
- Explanations and Empirical Theories
- Conceptual Theories and Definitions
- Writing a Short Critical Essay

Topic 1: Introduction: The Language of Argumentation

1

Why Language Matters

Everyone is trying to convince you — precise language is your defense.

2

Claims

The building block: a declarative sentence that's true or false.

3

Arguments

Premises offered as reasons for a conclusion — and what isn't one.

4

Working Vocabulary

A glossary you'll reuse in every topic that follows.

Topic 2: Analyzing Arguments: Content and Structure

1

**Why We Repair
Arguments**

2

Rules for Filling Gaps

3

**Structure of Compound
Claims**

4

**Structure of General
Claims**

Topic 3: Evaluating Arguments: Validity, Soundness, and Problems of Interpretation

1

Validity and Strength

2

Soundness

3

Problems of
Interpretation

4

Testing Through
Refutation

Topic 4: Syllogistic Reasoning

1

Categorical Claims

2

Testing with Diagrams

3

Hypothetical Syllogisms

4

Common Invalid Forms

- **Topic 5: Common Fallacies of Reasoning**

1

Structural & Content

2

Fallacies of Refutation

3

Fallacies of Language

4

Fallacies of Emotion

Topic 6: Nondeductive Arguments

1

What Is Nondeductive Reasoning?

2

Reasoning by Analogy

3

Generalizing from a Sample

4

When Is a Generalization Good?

Topic 7: The Use and Misuse of Statistics

1

Misleading Claims with
Numbers

2

• The Use and Misuse of Statistics
Graphs

3

Averages

4

Statistics in
Generalizations

- **Topic 8: Explanations and Empirical Theories**

1

What Is the Cause?

2

Worked Examples

3

**Building and Testing
Theories**

4

**Cause and Effect in
Populations**

- **Topic 9: Conceptual Theories and Definitions**

1

**What Is a
Definition?**

2

Types of Definitions

3

**Criteria for a Good
Definition**

4

**Persuasive
Definitions**

- **Topic 10: Writing a Short Critical Essay**

1

**Before you
write**

2

**Writing the first
draft**

3

**After writing
the first draft**

Introduction

Textbook:

The main material and reference for this course is mainly based on:

Textbook: Critical Thinking, Third Edition, Richard. Epstein with Carolyn Kernberger Illustrations by Alex Raffi.

Introduction

توزيع الدرجات - 100%	الأعمال
حضور المحاضرة - حل الأسئلة المصاحبة	محاضرة مسجلة أسبوعيًا- السبت من كل أسبوع
8 درجات لكل اختبار قصير - بمجموع 80 %	اختبار قصير مصاحب للمحاضرة بشكل أسبوعي
الحضور اختياري	حلقة نقاش افتراضية أسبوعية لمناقشة محتوى المحاضرة المسجلة.
20%	الاختبار النهائي

يتم احتساب الغياب من خلال حل الطالب للاختبار القصير المصاحب للمحاضرة المسجلة الأسبوعية، وإذا تغيب الطالب 4 اختبارات قصيرة يُعتبر الطالب في هذه الحالة حرمان. آخر موعد للاعتذار عن أي اختبار قصير يكون قبل إغلاق موعد الاختبار، مع إرفاق دلائل ثبوتية لأي أعذار قهرية أو مرضية عبر نموذج الاعتذار عن اختبار قصير عبر منصة (SIS). آخر موعد للاعتذار عن الاختبار النهائي يكون قبل موعد عقد الاختبار مع إرفاق الدلائل الثبوتية لأي عذر قهري أو طبي عبر نموذج الأعذار عن اختبار نهائي عبر منصة (SIS)، ولن يتم احتساب أي أعذار بعد نهاية الموعد المحدد.

● يحق لإدارة الجامعة مراعاة بعض الظروف القهرية.



Thank You

