

Critical Thinking

Prepared by Dr. Ahmed Alqarni

MGM 115

Introduction



About the course:

This course is designed to improve a student's ability to analyze 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.

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: critical thinking and argument**
- Basic logical concepts
- The language
- Logical fallacies
- Analyzing argument
- Evaluating arguments and truth claims
- Categorical and propositional logics
- Inductive reasoning
- Finding, evaluating, and using sources
- Writing argumentative essay

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Lecture 1: Introduction: critical thinking and argument

The nature of critical thinking

Key critical thinking standards

Some major impediments to critical thinking

Characteristics of a critical thinker

What is an argument

How to differentiate between argument and nonargument

Lecture 2: Basic logical concepts

- **Deduction and induction**
- **Indicator words**
- **Common patterns of deductive reasoning**
- **Common patterns of inductive reasoning**
- **Deductive validity**
- **Inductive strength**

Lecture 3: The language

- **Finding the right words**
- **The importance of precise definitions**
- **Types of Definitions**
- **Strategies for Defining**
- **Rules for Constructing Good Lexical Definitions**

Lecture 4: Logical fallacies

- **Fallacies of relevance**
- **Fallacies of insufficient evidence**

Lecture 5: Analyzing argument

- **Analyzing short arguments**
- **Analyzing longer arguments**

Lecture 6: Evaluating arguments and truth claims

- **What “Good Argument” Does Not Mean**
- **What “Good Argument” Does Mean**
- **When is it reasonable to accept a premise?**
- **Refuting arguments**

Lecture 7: Categorical and propositional logics

Categorical statements

Propositional logic

Lecture 8: Inductive Reasoning

- **Evaluating Inductive Generalizations**
- **Opinion Polls and Inductive Generalizations**
- **Statistical arguments**
- **Reference Class**
- **Induction and Analogy**
- **Causal Arguments**

Lecture 9: Finding, evaluating, and using sources

- **Finding sources**
- **Evaluating sources**
- **Using sources**

Lecture 10: Writing argumentative essay

- **Before you write**
- **Writing the first draft**
- **After writing the first draft**

Textbook:

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

Textbook: Critical Thinking, Fourth Edition, Gregory Bassham; William Irwin; Henry Nardone; & James M. Wallace

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

-يتم احتساب الغياب من خلال حل الطالب للاختبار القصير المصاحب للمحاضرة الأسبوعية المسجلة، وفي حال تغيب الطالب عن ٤ اختبارات قصيرة يعتبر الطالب في هذه الحالة حرمان.

-آخر موعد للاعتذار عن أي اختبار قصير يكون قبل إغلاق موعد الاختبار مع إرفاق الدلائل الثبوتية لأي أعذار قهرية أو مرضية عبر نموذج الأعذار 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، ويحق لإدارة الجامعة مراعاة بعض الظروف القهرية.

Thank you