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Course Description

This course is intended to fulfill Executive Order 595 from the Chancellor's office, which contains the following:

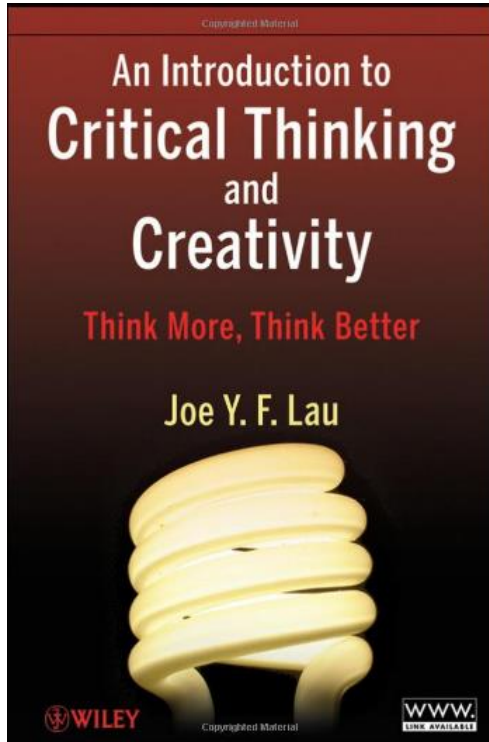
Instruction in critical thinking is to be designed to achieve an understanding of the relationship of language to logic, which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas, to reason inductively and deductively, and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. The minimal competence to be expected at the successful conclusion of instruction in critical thinking should be the demonstration of skills in elementary inductive and deductive processes, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies of language and thought, and the ability to distinguish matters of fact from issues of judgment or opinion.

This course satisfies the General Education requirements in Area A3. The university's policy states that students in this course must demonstrate:

1. ability to distinguish between fact and judgment and between belief and knowledge;
2. ability to distinguish between correct and incorrect reasoning, including an understanding of the formal and informal fallacies in language and thought;
3. knowledge of and skill in using elementary methods and patterns of reasoning, including induction and deduction; and
4. ability to criticize, analyze, and advocate ideas with logical force within human discourse, both oral and written.

Textbook

Joe Y. F. Lau, *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity: Think More, Think Better* (Wiley, 2011)



Additional articles posted on Blackboard Learn.

How This Course Works

This course is designed expecting you to do the following:

1. Read, take notes from, and study all the assigned readings.
2. Turn in all writing assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted.
3. Take the quizzes on the days you are required to take them. If you missed a quiz, you **will not** be given a make-up quiz.
4. You may rely on any notes you have taken and even the textbook when you are taking a quiz. Each quiz is available on the announced day until midnight, but once you start taking a quiz, you must complete it within the specified amount of time.
5. You will have access to the result of your quiz just after midnight on the day that you took that quiz.

6. If you have any questions about the reading material or anything related to the course, you can always email me and I will respond within the same day. All emails will take place through Blackboard Learn.

Grading

Your course grade is based on the score you get out of a total of 200 points:

- (i) 100 points for five quizzes. Each quiz is 20 points and has 20 multiple-choice questions.
- (ii) 60 points for three short-question writing assignments. Each assignment is 20 points and has 5 questions.
- (iii) 40 points for a final paper of about 1,000 words.

Grade conversion:

181-200 points: A	171-180 points: A-	161-170 points: B+
151-160 points: B	141-150 points: B-	131-140 points: C+
121-130 points: C	111-120 points: C-	101-110 points: D
100 and below: F		

Definition of Letter Grading Symbols:

- A** Superior work. A high level of achievement that is normally attained by relatively few students.
- B** Good work. A level of achievement clearly better than adequate competence in the subject matter/skill.
- C** Adequate work. A level of achievement indicating adequate competence in the subject matter/skill.
- D** Inadequate work. A level of achievement that does not meet all the requirements of the course.
- F** Unacceptable work. A level of achievement that fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course.

(Please note that the passing grade of this course is C- and that your course grade is based **strictly on the points you gained.)**

University Policies and Campus Resources

Adding and Dropping: You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found at http://www.csuchico.edu/sro/registration/class_add_drop_process.shtml. You should be aware of the new deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct for this course can be found at: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity.shtml>.

Disability Services: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me to discuss your specific needs. You can also contact the Disability Support Services office to coordinate reasonable accommodations for your needs. Disabilities Support Services online: <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/studentServices/>.

Schedule

8/27 - 8/31	Ch.1 Introduction Ch.2 Thinking and writing clearly
9/4 - 9/7	Ch.3 Definitions
9/10 - 9/14	Ch.4 Necessary and sufficient conditions
9/17 - 9/21	Ch.5 Linguistic pitfalls
First quiz on 9/17	
9/24 - 9/28	Ch.7 Basic logic
First short-question assignment due on 9/24	
10/1 - 10/5	Ch.8 Identifying arguments Ch.9 Valid and sound arguments
10/8 - 10/12	Ch.10 Inductive reasoning

Second quiz on 10/8

10/15 - 10/19 Ch.11 Argument mapping

Ch.12 Argument analysis

10/22 - 10/26 Ch.13 Scientific reasoning

Third quiz on 10/22

10/29 - 11/2 Ch.14 Mill's methods

Second short-question assignment due on 10/29

11/5 - 11/9 Ch.15 Reasoning about causation

Ch.16 Diagrams of causal processes

11/13 - 11/16 Ch.17 Statistics and probability

Fourth quiz on 11/13

11/19 - 11/23 Thanksgiving week

11/26 - 11/30 Ch.20 Cognitive Biases

Third short-question assignment due on 11/26

12/3 - 12/7 Ch.21 Analogical reasoning

12/10 - 12/14 Ch.22 Making rational decisions

Fifth quiz on 12/10

12/17 – 12/21 Finals week

Final paper due on 12/17