

PHI 210 – Critical Thinking

Course Description

Develops ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate reasoning in everyday discourse. Examines the elements of good reasoning from both a formal and informal perspective. Introduces some formal techniques of the basic concepts of deductive and inductive reasoning. Promotes reasoning skills through examining arguments from literature, politics, business, and the media. Enables students to identify common fallacies, to reflect on the use of language for the purpose of persuasion, and to think critically about the sources and biases of the vast quantity of information that confronts us in the "Information Age."

Instructional Materials

Soomo (2013). Critical Thinking. [Webtext]. Asheville, NC: Soomo Publishing.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Define critical thinking.
2. Explain how critical thinking improves the ability to communicate accurately, both orally and in writing.
3. Develop skills for overcoming barriers which limit objective and productive critical thinking.
4. Demonstrate the importance of pre-writing, drafting, and revising; the consideration of audience, purpose, and text; the application of organizational strategies; and the recognition of effective language in written communication.
5. Apply the principles of argumentation to analyze, evaluate, and compose effective arguments.
6. Analyze the purpose of organizational structure to create persuasive arguments.
7. Identify the informal fallacies, assumptions, and biases involved in manipulative appeals and abuses of language.
8. Recognize the hindrances to the decision-making process in order to apply problem-solving skills to a variety of situations.
9. Write clearly and concisely about critical thinking using proper writing mechanics.
10. Use technology and information resources to research issues in critical thinking skills and informal logic.