

SYLLABUS
CT101 Critical Thinking – A Hybrid Course

Dr. Evelyn Flores, Professor



*What does this image have to do with Critical Thinking?
Write a few captions that might be appropriate.*

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Phone: (671) 735-2742/2725

Triton Mail: evelynrflores@triton.uog.edu

Professor's Office: EC213E

Check your Gotriton email regularly. I will be sending announcements out via that email.

WhatsApp Chat

We will be setting up a whatsapp chat group for our class.

CLASS Email Policy:

Feel free to communicate with me if you have any concerns about class.

Include your class and section in the title of your email.

I will check my email once a day but not dependably on weekends and holidays. You can email me at any time, but you may not receive a response outside regular business hours (weekends and holidays). Please use your gotriton account when you email me.

Notes:

- *This course is a **hybrid** course.*
- *This means we meet In-Person with occasional excursions to our Moodle classroom and sometimes perhaps to our Zoom classroom. We use Moodle for storage, for submissions, forums, assignments, and exams.*
- *Enrollment Key: Self-enroll with this enrollment key: goodthinking=goodlife.*
- *Professor Hangout Hours: See Moodle. We can meet either in-person or on Zoom.*
- **Join the class' WhatsApp Chat.** *The class is encouraged to have a whatsappchat.*
- **Practice Acts of Respect.** *Or How to Address Your Professor. You may call me "Dr. Flores" or "Professor Flores." In whatsapp chats, be respectful. When talking about Dr. Flores, say "Dr. Flores" or "Prof Flores," not just "she" as in "What does she want us to do for Friday." Instead, "Does anyone know what Dr. Flores wants us to do for Friday?"*
- **Send an e-mail to dr.evelynflores@gmail.com** *following this format: your name and class and section: Name-Class-Section-Subject
Example: Jaguon-EN317-E-mail confirmation*
- *In your **emails** to me, always include your class and reason for your email. When sending chats, include your name and class.*

Course Description

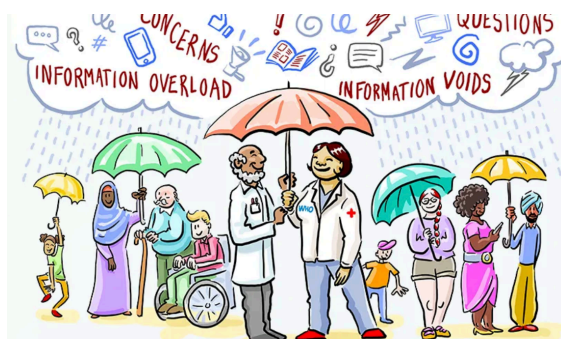
This is an interdisciplinary foundation course in critical thinking. Students learn how to 1) analyze, 2) critically evaluate and 3) construct arguments, 4) detect common fallacies in reasoning, and 5) propose logical and creative solutions to complex problems. Critical thinking skills are valuable in all disciplines and will benefit students in academic contexts and in life.

Course Overview

We live in a new age—the age of the internet! There has never been such an era with such easy access to global knowledge.

We are overwhelmed by myriad amounts and types of information coming from many directions, from home and school and church, but also from social media, the internet, and the news. Technology has increased our

access to information, but it also has increased the difficulty of figuring out what's what.



<https://openwho.org/channels/infodemic-management>

Is There An Umbrella?

It's hard to decipher what to believe and what not to believe. This decoding game is tough, tougher than any game created by the game kings. Many are just throwing up their hands and saying, "Whatever," because they are so confused and don't know what to do.

How do we sift through the avalanche of information and come out with the best possible decision we can? Too often, overwhelmed, we make decisions "without thinking" or just going with our emotions or with what the majority are saying. We may feel lost not knowing how to interrogate the relevance or appropriateness of the information, advice, and recommendations for our particular situation.

This course aims to help us make better decisions by giving us some tools that will help us to take charge of the ideas that we receive by refracting them through the lenses of adequate and viable evidence, truth and validity, deductive and inductive reasoning, and logical rather than fallacious thinking.



From: Culturico [Critical Thinking Amidst a Storm of Information](#)

Books

We'll be using two books.

- Our primary text will be Lei Bao's text, *Don't Just Think: Be Logical*. You are required to purchase a hard copy available at Fast Copy. This price is about \$5.
- Vol. 1, Brad Dowden's *Logical Reasoning* is the other book. The price is about \$25. This will be a discussion/workbook for our class.
- Call Fast Copy first before going down since they print per order. Their phone number is **671-472-2679**.
- *Clear and Present Thinking: A Handbook and Logic and Rationality*, 2nd Edition will be used as a reference book. You do not have to buy a hard copy of this book. Just use the digital copy in our Moodle classroom. A PDF version is also available here: [PDF Copy of Clear and Present Thinking](#)



Learning Objectives for Students

On completion of the course, students will:

- 1) Identify credible and reliable information from various sources;
- 2) Recognize common errors in reasoning; and –
- 3) Construct sound arguments for a variety of real-world experiences.

Evaluation: Overview of Assignments

Grades will be based on the following assignments/exercises.

ASSIGNMENTS	WEIGHT	SUBWEIGHTS
1. Assessment (Pre-Post-Tests during reg sems)	10%	Sum/Inter=0%
2. Assignments and Exercises (SLOs 1, 2, 3)	35%	25 10
4. Projects -Fact or Fiction, Debate, Ethics Bowl (SLOs 1, 2, 3)	25%	5 10 10
5. Exam 1 (SLO2)	10%	Sum/Inter=15%
6. Exam 2 (SLOs 1, 2, 3)	10%	Sum/Inter=15%
7. Attendance and Participation	10%	

Grading Scale

A Grade of D or lower means retaking the course.

The grade NC is not used in this course.

Other symbols, assigned by the Office of Admissions & Records, are administrative and do not evaluate work:

"W" - Official Withdrawal;

"UW" - Unofficial Withdrawal (Note: For GPA calculation, "UW" is treated as an "F" grade);

"CW" - Credit Withheld.

A+	100-98		B+	87-89		C+	77-79
A	93-97		B	83-86		C	70-76
A-	90-92		B-	80-82		D	60-69

Is It Possible for me to Pass this Class? Yes! Vote for Yourself!

This class is made for you to pass. In other words, I and the whole university are voting for you to pass. Are you voting for yourself? Because without your vote, we're dead in the water.

How does this work? Simple. There are **easy points** and **hard points** in the class. Rack up the easy points to balance out the more rigorous ones.

Easy Points

What are these easy points? Yes, attendance, for sure, and exercises, and a couple of the projects. The exercises are free points because you get some credit for just doing them from start to finish and they're often built so you can practice with more than one attempt.

Hard Points

And what are the hard points? The exams of course. The assignments are sort of medium hard because they give you only two attempts and average out the grade.

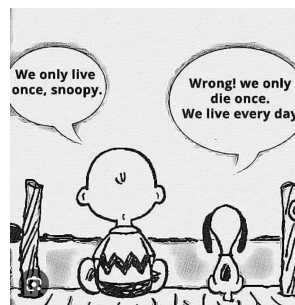
The projects are also medium hard.

So, you see, there's no reason for you not to pass, from our perspective, unless fate bowls you over. So stay the course, come to class, and keep up with the homework—that's the winning formula.

Mid-term Is A Fork in the Proverbial Road



Snoopy's Driving
From Bon Voyage Charlie Brown
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6xec5f>



<https://www.pinterest.com/Thinkpozitiv/>

OR What A W and UW Mean

If you wish to withdraw, do it *before* the **mid-term deadline**.

Pick up a withdrawal form from the Registrar's office or download it from online.

Fill it out and have your professor sign this withdrawal form.

Then take that to the Registrar's Office *before* the mid-term deadline date. You can then withdraw with no grade penalty. The W will not change to a failing grade.

A grade of W for withdrawal will be issued and recorded in your academic transcripts. A W does not affect your GPA.

However, you do lose the money you paid for the class. So if possible, work hard from the start and don't let up.

If on the other hand, you wait till **after the deadline**, you will receive a **UW**—for Unofficial Withdrawal Grade. This **UW** will affect your GPA. It calculates out as an F grade.

Let's say you have your professor sign your W withdrawal form *before* the deadline but you don't turn it in until *after* the deadline. Even with your professor's signature and date, the W given will eventually turn to an F, which will affect your overall GPA.

Can an F be removed? Yes. An F can be removed if the student retakes the class and gets a higher grade, which then removes the F and replaces it with this new, higher grade.

From the *UOG Student Handbook* --- Withdrawal from Class:

Students may withdraw from a class or classes during the first week of instruction of a regular semester and the first two days of a summer session without anything being recorded on their transcripts. From the second through the eighth week of instruction of a regular semester and from the third day of classes through the third week of a summer term, students may withdraw by using the Withdrawal feature in their Webadvisor account.

Resources You Need

Because this is a hybrid course, a desk computer, laptop or tablet is necessary. Internet access is also necessary. If you don't have internet at home, we have lots of computer center space for you to do your work. Talk with me about it if you need more information.

Phones can work in a pinch, but they don't have all the capacities. We may be using your laptops occasionally in class. The Dean's office may have a couple to loan out if you don't have one. Talk to me about this, and we'll see how we can help.

Assignments and Exercises:

You are expected to have read and comprehended the reading before class on the date listed in the schedule of readings. Homework is due the following class period after it is assigned, if not stated otherwise. **A Late assignment may lose points for each day it's late** unless you've made arrangements.

In Class Activities/Projects: We will have multiple projects that you need to complete in class. You are expected to participate in all of them. **It is your responsibility to be present and on time for in-class activities/tests.** In-Class exercises are tough to make up, so try not to miss. If you have a good reason to be absent or to miss these projects, please let me know.

Pre/Post Testing (Does not apply to Finakpo' (Summer) or Tinalo' (Intersession) classes)

We will take a pre/post-test for this class. You will be graded on a completion scale for this assignment. It is either complete for full grade or incomplete. All pre-tests should be completed before the first lecture class.

Attendance Policy and Class Conduct

Attendance/Participation is worth 10% of your grade. These are easy points. Rack them up to balance off your more rigorous point. You are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Presence earns 3 points. Tardies and early departures earn 2 pts, Excused Absences 1 pt. and Absences 0 pts. If you have a good reason to be absent/late for class, please consult Dr. Flores.



Military Service

Those who are in the military service should inform Dr. Flores immediately if they are to miss class/assignment/debate because of their *unavoidable* work-related events. They need to get approval from her to receive any accommodation.

Statement for Guard Members

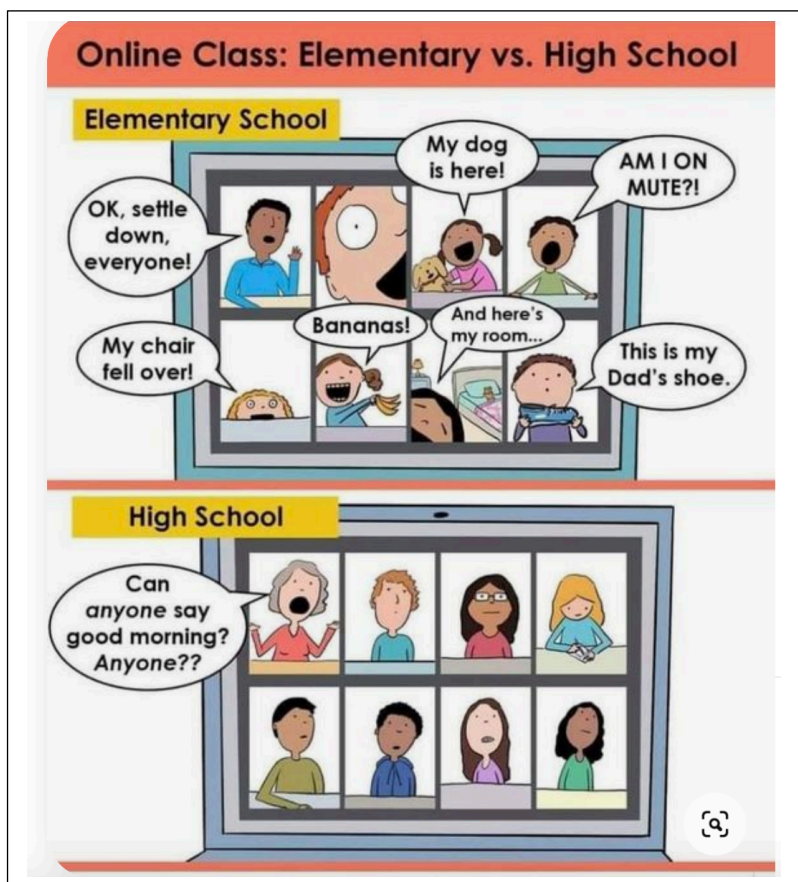
If you are a Guard member and apply to be deployed during the semester, in order to be given any accommodation or an incomplete grade, you *must* discuss your situation with the professor personally *before* you apply. You must not assume professor approval or accommodation. Keep in mind that the final decision about whether or not accommodations will be allowed, or an incomplete grade given, is at the professor's discretion, and is therefore not guaranteed.

Mandatory deployment. Please consult with your professor.

Classroom Protocol

Here's where the words of your kindergarten and first-grade teachers return with mythic force:

- 1) Come to class on time dressed appropriately, have your homework done, and sit up straight.
- 2) Remain in class throughout; take care of bathroom and other needs before class.
- 3) Avoid distractions like phones and family members---as much as possible
- 4) Keep eating outside of class.
- 5) Talk to contribute to class, not to catch up on the latest news, except during down times.



Stay Focused

Eating, sleeping, text messaging, surfing the web and using computers other than to take notes are distractions and will affect your grade. You may lose participation points for engaging in distracting behaviors. More importantly, you will lose out on vital information and skills that will create gaps in your understanding and will result in lower scores. You may be asked to leave class if you cause any disturbance/distraction in class. How does Dr. Flores know when you're being distracted? When you're laughing or smiling at the wrong times and are at a loss when she asks you a question. Those are just a couple of the signs.

Netiquette and Creating a Community of Scholars

We learn best when we learn from each other. Do your part to create a community of scholars where you will learn from each other how to improve your critical thinking skills. Making better decisions relies on getting all the information we can on a topic before making a decision. That means we listen to ideas we may be opposed to. As we discuss, we will have disagreements. These are ok as long as you are respectful. Here are some

beginning terms of engagements as you become more confident and thoughtful about expressing your views:

- 1) Be respectful. Do not be rude.
- 2) Address the issue not the person.
- 3) Listen – try to understand the other person’s perspective.
- 4) Challenge your own thinking by trying to see an issue from the other person’s view.
- 5) No name-calling, cussing, or belittling.
- 6) No flaming, trolling, or cyber bullying.
- 7) Respect the privacy of others. Do not post or communicate personal or confidential information in the virtual classroom.
- 8) Be prompt in your responses in Forums.
- 9) Always re-read what you type before you send it. Remember that you cannot take back anything that you post. Also remember that people cannot see you or hear you. That means that they cannot see your body language or hear the tone of your voice. They can only rely on what you type. So, try to make sure that what you type cannot be misinterpreted
- 10) Remember that the UOG Moodle system keeps logs of all your activity inside of UOG Moodle.

Don’t hesitate to report any concerns about classmate behavior to me.

My Elusive Professor



There are lots of ways to contact me. Just send me an email and let me know you’d like to hangout and we’ll set up an appointment. I check my email at least once a day but not over the weekend reliably.

I’ve included a Q&A Forum in the class where you can drop your questions so others in the class can benefit. It will be easy to find answers to older questions there in that more organized space.

Students are also welcome to provide their own answers and feedback based on their own experience. Such sharing of information allows us all to help each other.

Class Talk

You are expected to join in classroom discussions. You are expected to speak at least one sentence that will show that you have read the assigned readings. Comments should reflect careful reading and thinking about the reading.



<https://www.cartoonstock.com/direct>

I advise that you jot down *before class* a question and an observation that you plan to make and upon which you want to build. You can then enter into the conversation either by asking a question and providing some thought behind the question; by piggy-backing onto someone else's suggestion; by steering the conversation when the opportunity arrives towards the point you want to make.

Participation is an essential part of this class. You are expected to participate in discussion, but the quality of your participation matters as well. If it is obvious that you have not done or read the assignment, it will reflect poorly on your grades on assignments and participation.

The Big Blue Button - BBB

BBB is a cool hangout space. We'll meet there occasionally as a class. But you, too, can also meet there with your classmates for project meetings.

Student Support:

The following is a list of resources that students can turn to when they need support:

- Problems with the course instructions or other content?
Contact your Instructor for clarification and assistance.
- Technical problems with UOG Moodle system?
Contact the UOG Moodle Help team by email at moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu or by phone at (671) 735-2620.

- Problems with WebAdvisor or GoTritons student email service?
Contact the UOG Office of Information Technology (aka: the Computer Center) by email at helpdesk@uog.edu or by phone at (671) 735-2640.
- UOG Library Resources and Services
Go online to <https://www.uog.edu/student-services/rfk-library/>
- UOG Student Services
Go online to <https://www.uog.edu/student-services/enrollment-management-student-success/> to contact the Admissions and Records office, Financial Aid office, Student Life office, Housing and Residence, Counseling, Student Health, and other services.

Other Policies

Accommodation Statement

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request.

A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me.

To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110 disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.

EEO Statement

The University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. Federal and local laws protect the University community from any act of sexual discrimination. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community members. If you need assistance with EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and/or Title IX concerns, please contact the Director of the **EEO/ADA & Title IX** at (671) 735-2244, (671) 735-2971, or TDD (671)735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

Smoke-Free, Vape-Free Campus—UOG is a smoke-free, vape-free campus. Smoking and vaping are prohibited anywhere on the campus proper.

Academic Resources

Plagiarism Policy:

Please be aware that academic dishonesty will not be taken lightly. Any form of plagiarism or cheating will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism is defined in Sec. V Student Conduct of Student Handbook as:

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited, to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Please take a look at Sec V of the *Student Handbook*: [Student Handbook](#)
Copying someone’s homework assignment is a form of plagiarism. Cheating on an exam or a quiz immediately results in a failing grade for the particular exam/quiz. If you have any question, please ask me.

The New Kid on the Block—AI

Download the Student Guide to Navigating College in the AI Era:

studentguidetoai.org.

ChatGPT is a large language model developed by OpenAI that has numerous learning and teaching applications in the university.

While ChatGPT has the potential to revolutionize teaching and learning in the university, there are also some potential downfalls being considered by many institutions when used in student work:

1. Lack of personalized feedback: ChatGPT provides automated responses based on pre-existing data and algorithms, which means that it may not provide personalized feedback to individual students. This lack of personalized feedback can make it difficult for students to improve their work and could hinder their learning progress.

2. Dependence on technology: The use of ChatGPT in student work could lead to students becoming overly dependent on technology, and *potentially decreasing their ability to think critically and solve problems on their own.*
3. Potential for errors: ChatGPT is still a machine learning model, which means that there is a potential for errors in its responses. Students may receive incorrect or misleading information, which could negatively impact their grades and overall learning experience.
4. Lack of human interaction: The use of ChatGPT in student work may reduce the level of human interaction and socialization that is important in the university learning experience. This could impact the development of interpersonal skills and the ability to work collaboratively.
5. Ethical concerns: There are also ethical concerns to consider when using ChatGPT, particularly around issues of data privacy, bias, and fairness. It is important to ensure that the use of ChatGPT in student work is carried out in an ethical and responsible manner.

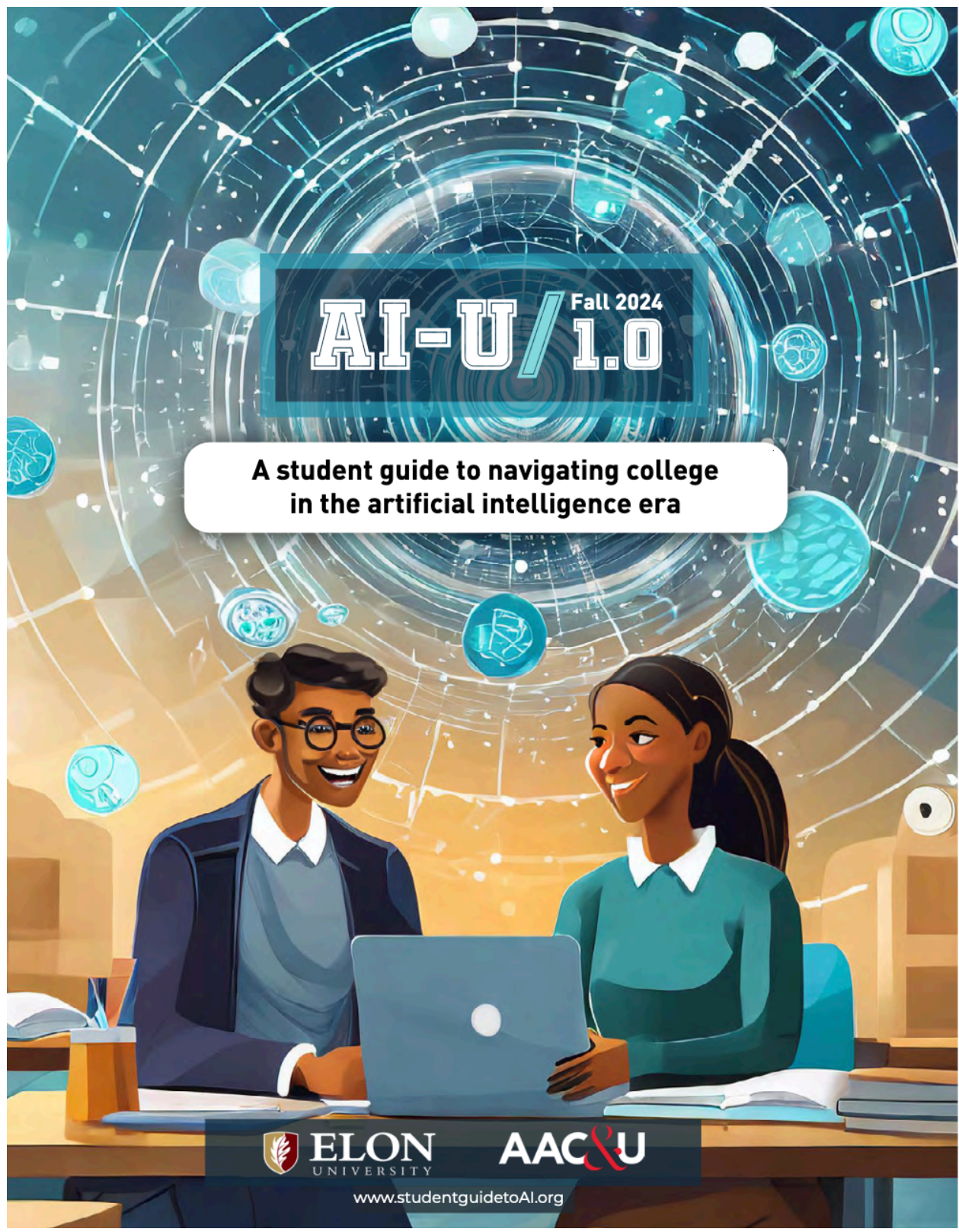
The Policy

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student's original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student's endeavors. Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.

From --SCIE Report 3-16-23

Turnitin

Our class uses the source checker called Turnitin. It will detect source and AI use. Unethical use of AI assistance may result in a failing grade.



AI-U / 1.0 Fall 2024

**A student guide to navigating college
in the artificial intelligence era**



www.studentguidetoAI.org

Learning Outcomes

SLOs	Learning Objectives linked to the following:		Method of Assessment
<i>On completing the course, students will:</i>	GERC Learning Outcomes (GLOs)	Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	
SLO1: Identify credible and reliable information from various sources	GLO1: Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation of argumentative discourse	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving	Written assignments, Oral presentations, Group projects, Quizzes and exams.
	GLO2: Using investigative and analytical skills to explore complex questions and solve challenging problems	ILO5: Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources and technology	
	GLO6: Differentiating and prioritizing elements of complex real-world experiences	ILO7: An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	

SLOs	Learning Objectives linked to the following:		Method of Assessment
<i>On completing the course, students will:</i>	GERC Learning Outcomes (GLOs)	Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	
SLO2: Recognize common errors in reasoning	GLO5: Identifying and avoiding common logical errors (fallacies)	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO5: Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources and technology	Written assignments, Oral presentations, Group projects, Quizzes and exams.
SLO3: Construct sound arguments for a variety of real-world experiences	GLO3: Synthesizing information in order to examine alternatives and arrive at reasoning conclusions	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving	Written assignments, Oral presentations, Group projects, Quizzes and exams.
GLO4: Comprehending and explaining the logic and validity of arguments & the relevance of data & info	ILO3: Effective oral and written communication		

Institutional Learning Outcome (ILOs)

Some of the expected fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that the University of Guam students will have demonstrated upon completion of *any* degree are:

1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving;
2. Mastery of quantitative analysis;
3. Effective oral and written communication;
4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas, and values in a democratic context;
5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology;
6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences;
7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning.

We Are Back to Normal – But A New Normal

We've reached the other side of the pandemic. But there are bugs still out there. Let's still be careful with each other. If you have a fever or are coughing, sneezing, dripping a lot---please stay home. Be sure to wear a mask if you're even a little bit sick and try to sit away from other students to protect them from getting sick as well.

When sneezing or coughing in class, please cover your mouth and nose. Practice hand-washing regularly should you have the sniffles.

No Unauthorized Recording:

Only the instructor may record class sessions. Unauthorized recording of offline or online class meetings is not allowed. Authorized recordings should not include screen shots that include identifiable information of any person in the session. Not only is the delivery of course content the intellectual property of the instructor, but students enrolled in the course have privacy rights. Unauthorized recording and distribution of online courses may violate federal law.

Sources for the Images Used in this Syllabus (not footnoted)

P. 8 – Military Service. <https://wresa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Army-National-Guard.pdf>

P. 9 – Stay Focused. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/741616263649254755/>

P. 10 – My Elusive Professor. <https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/11230005-woman-detective-set-character-design-woman-spy-in-trench-coat-and-hat-sneaks-standing-lurks-with-gun-looking-for-evidences-with-loupe-making-photos-from-the-ambush-flat-vector-illustration>