

SYLLABUS

Section Information

Section 07
MW 5:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
HSS 304

Instructor information

Instructor: Norine Santos Guzman. M.Ed.
Email: guzmann@triton.uog.edu
Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Catalog Course Description: This is a foundation course in critical thinking. Students learn how to analyze, critically evaluate and construct arguments, detect common fallacies in reasoning, and 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 Introduction: This course is concerned with the development of potential capacities that all of you have, even though you may not have developed them. These capacities are part of your intellect and will help you to be successful not only in university studies, but also in life. Many people don't develop these skills and therefore use their critical thinking very ineffectively and often just rationalize or justify their decisions. Most of their ideas come to their mind without having thought about them. They unconsciously pick up what people around them think, what is on television, in school, or at church. They are products, through and through of forces they did not choose. They reflect those forces without ever taking the time to understand or analyze them and determine "is this right for me."

Critical thinking reverses this process, by learning to practice skills that enable one to start to take charge of the ideas that run one's life. *It is to think consciously and deliberately in ways that transform oneself.* It is a developed mind that is like a fit body. A mind that can handle the challenges it will face in home, work, and community. This was perhaps said best by Aristotle when he said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

The course aims at developing basic analytic skills and an understanding of the principles and concepts involved in clear thinking. It teaches students the skills they need to think for themselves—skills they will call upon in this course, in other courses, and in the world, that awaits. Emphasis will be focused on the concepts of truth and validity, deductive and inductive reasoning, fallacies, and the criteria of adequate evidence for belief.

Required Text

Clear and Present Thinking: A Handbook and Logic and Rationality. 2nd Edition
New York: Northwest Passage Books, 2017
ISBN 978-0-9939527-9-1

PDF available here: <http://www.brendanmyers.net/storage/ClearAndPresentThinking-2ndEdition.pdf>

Don't Just Think; Be Logical: Critical Thinking Manual for College Students

PDF available here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w5FYPIYxMZkfrlAoTwIyS8OkVSiHk8DL/view?usp=sharing>

Evaluation: Overview of Assignments

Grades will be based on the following assignments/exercises.

CATEGORY	VALUE
Attendance/Participation	10%
Assessments (Pre and Post-Test)	5%
Class Projects/Activities	20%
Homework and Readings	20%
Debate (Overall Group = 70%; Peer = 30%)	30%
Final Exam	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

A+	100-97	B+	89-87	C+	79-75	F	59-
A	96-93	B	86-83	C	74-70		
A-	92-90	B-	82-80	D	69-60		

Attendance Policy:

Synchronous (S) – occurring at the same time; instructor and students must be virtually present at scheduled class times and sign onto their virtual learning platform on schedule.

Asynchronous (A) – not occurring at the same time; usually without the presence of the instructor.

Attendance/Participation is worth 10% of your grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings. **You may miss four (4) class meetings without penalty. After four (4) absences, you will lose 1% of your total grade for each class you miss.** If you have to be absent/late for class, please contact me beforehand.

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

Participation and Discussion:

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 the assignment, it will reflect poorly on your grades on assignments and participation.

Creating an Intellectual Community

Please consider this class as an intellectual community, in which you learn to improve your critical thinking skills with others. This class consists of many students, which means that it is almost inevitable that you disagree with someone in this classroom. Disagreement is ok as long as you are respectful. Listen to what others have to say even if you don't share the same view. It is a good practice to challenge your own thinking by listening to other opinions, engaging in self-criticism at times to learn your own biases. I encourage you to express your own views. Being critical does not mean that you are allowed to be rude to others. If you behave in a disrespectful way, not only does it affect your participation in a negative way, but I may also ask you to leave the class for causing distractions.

Homework Assignments/ Readings:

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. **No late assignments will be accepted, except in the case of excused absence.**

Class Projects/Activities: We will have multiple projects that you need to complete. You are expected to participate in all of them. **It is your responsibility to be present and on time for in-class activities/tests. If you miss any in-class project (including a test), there will be no make-up opportunity.** If you have a good reason to be absent to miss these projects, please let me know and a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Course Policies

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the student code of conduct at UOG. It includes copying exam answers, copying writing without proper citation, paraphrasing another author without proper citation or representing another person's work as if it was your own (see the UOG Student Handbook p. 49). If you plagiarize you will receive a zero on the assignment in question and will be immediately referred to UOG's Student Disciplinary Committee. The decision of this committee could involve consequences such as failing the course outright or being expelled from the University of Guam. Please do not plagiarize; it is not worth it.

ADA Accommodation Services

ADA Policy and Commitment to Student Learning

The University is committed to maintaining the campus community as a place of work and study for faculty, staff and students, free of all forms of discrimination and harassment. If you experience harassment or discrimination, then you should report it immediately to the EEO/ADA & Title IX Office, Institutional Compliance Officer (671) 735-2244 located in Dorm 1. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

ADA Accommodation Services

If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact the Disability Support Services office to discuss your specific accommodation needs confidentially. You will need to provide me with a Faculty Notification letter from the DSS counselor. If you are not registered, you should do so immediately at the Student Center, Rotunda office #6, ph/TTY:

735-2460, or uogdss@triton.uog.edu to coordinate your accommodation request.

TOBACCO-FREE/SMOKE-FREE Campus

UOG is a tobacco-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, and for helping make UOG a healthy learning and living environment.

No Recording Policy

Recording of online class meetings is not allowed. 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.

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	
SLO2: Recognize common errors in reasoning	GLO5: Identifying and avoiding common logical errors (fallacies)	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving	Written assignments, Oral presentations, Group projects, Quizzes and exams.
		ILO5: Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources and technology	
SLO3: Construct sound arguments for a	GLO3: Synthesizing information in order to examine alternatives and arrive at reasoning	ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving	Written assignments, Oral presentations, Group projects, Quizzes and exams.

variety of real-world experiences	conclusions		
	GLO4: Comprehending and explaining the logic and validity of arguments and the relevance of data and information	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.