

DePaul University
School for New Learning

College Reasoning/Critical Thinking
Spring 2003

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Hours: Wednesday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Location: Barat

Credit Hours: 3

Competence Offered: L-5 Can analyze issues and reconcile problems through critical and appreciative thinking.
LL-5 Can listen, speak, and reason in a manner appropriate to intellectual discourse.

Textbook: Ruggiero, Vincent. *The Art of Thinking*. Harper & Row, 6th edition.
*Additional reading may be distributed by the instructor for students to read.

Course Description: Critical thinking is foundational to all meaningful intellectual discourse. In this class, students will become aware, develop, and apply their own thinking processes to college-level intellectual activity including writing, speaking, and listening. The course emphasizes the skills and strategies of critical thinking and reading as well as application of those skills and strategies to the invention, construction, and evaluation of arguments. We will touch on the principles of logic, strategies of persuasion, and techniques of propaganda. The course presents a variety of readings, discussion, and projects designed to help students develop competence in the following areas: recognizing assumptions, connecting assertions to evidence, stating generalizations, creating arguments, and viewing complex issues from multiple perspectives. This course is primarily structured as a work-shop as opposed to a lecture-based class. We will rely on Socrates to provide a method of inquiry for us.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on their ability to apply the various thinking strategies and concepts from class to written and spoken exercises. Assignments include the following: two formal papers (a short essay of 2-4 pages and a final project of 7-9 pages) and a presentation to the class of those papers; in-class exercises (individual writing assignments and group work); class participation; and attendance. Assignments are due on the date assigned. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This is a pass/fail course.

Students are expected to attend each class meeting in order to pass the course. If you must be gone, please notify the instructor prior to your absence and be sure to find out the in-class and homework assignments that are due. Assignments must be turned in on the day they are due.

Critical Thinking, cont.
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Course Outcomes: Students will be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

- ❑ Listen and read critically.
- ❑ Frame problems and issues as well as evaluate and make intelligent judgments.
- ❑ Establish a position and create a well-formed argument to defend it.
- ❑ Apply the techniques of inventing and constructing arguments.
- ❑ Understand and be able to use the principles of inductive and deductive reasoning.
- ❑ Understand and recognize common logical fallacies and propaganda devices.
- ❑ Paraphrasing and summarizing.
- ❑ Understand the value of finding, developing, and engaging multiple perspectives on a given issue or subject.
- ❑ Understand innate egocentrism and sociocentrism and develop perspectives beyond personal bias
- ❑ Develop and present individual credibility and authority on a given issue or subject.

CALENDAR: (The following is a tentative guide. Specific in-class and homework assignments will be explained during class time.)

<u>Week One</u>	April 2	Course Introduction, Perception, Assessment
<u>Week Two</u>	April 9	Ruggerio, Chapters 1 & 2, Appendices A & B Film; Active Observation & Analysis
<u>Week Three</u>	April 16	Ruggerio, Chapters 3, 4, 5 Active Observation & Analysis Cont.
<u>Week Four</u>	April 23	Ruggerio, Chapters 7, 8, 9
<u>Week Five</u>	April 30	Ruggerio, Chapters 10, 11, 12 Short paper rough drafts due & in-class reviews
<u>Week Six</u>	May 7	Short paper due & presentations
<u>Week Seven</u>	May 14	Begin Final Project
<u>Week Eight</u>	May 21	Final Project In Progress
<u>Week Nine</u>	May 28	Conferences
<u>Week Ten</u>	June 4	Final paper due & presentations