

PHIL110

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : PHIL110 **Title :** Critical Thinking

Length of Course : 8

Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: Critical Thinking introduces skills, concepts, models, and techniques for reading, writing, and thinking critically. Critical thinking is a necessary process for identifying and solving problems in academia and the workplace, as well as interpreting information in the media. Through the use of critical and logical thought processes, students will develop practical, analytical skills that prepare them for the investigative nature of being life-long learners.

Course Scope:

Objectives

CO-1: Define critical thinking and logical analysis (Knowledge)

CO-2: Describe logical processes and logic models used in problem solving (Comprehension)

CO-3: Apply logical processes, including mathematical models, to assess and evaluate problems (Application)

CO-4: Produce accurate calculations, symbolic operations, and logical processes in writing (Application)

Outline

Week 1: The Curious Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

1. : Define critical thinking and logical analysis (Knowledge)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Describe critical thinking activities.
2. : Describe elements of critical thinking.
3. : Define words used to describe critical thinking.
4. : Describe possible consequences of failure to think critically.

Required Readings

Week 1 Reading and Resources

Week 1 Lesson

Assignments

Week 1 Forum, Introductions and the Critical Thinking Process

Week 2: The Inquiring Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-1: Define critical thinking and logical analysis (Knowledge)

CO-2: Describe logical processes and logic models used in problem solving (Comprehension)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Describe how decisions are made.
2. : Describe information needed for critical thinking.
3. : Define traits of good information sources.
4. : Define intellectual standards of critical thinking.

Required Readings

Week 2 Reading and Resources

Week 2 Lesson

Assignments

Week 2 Forum, Blog Post: The Inquiring Thinker

Week 2 Forum, Decision, Decision, Decision

Week 3: The Logical Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-1: Define critical thinking and logical analysis (Knowledge)

CO-2: Describe logical processes and logic models used in problem solving (Comprehension)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Define deductive and inductive reasoning, causal analysis, and underlying assumptions.
2. : Describe logical fallacies.
3. : Describe common uses of logical fallacies.
4. : Identify logical fallacies in varied media.

Required Readings

Week 3 Reading and Resources

Week 3 Lesson

Assignments

Week 3 Forum, Fallacies to Persuade and Possibly Manipulate

Assignment: Full of Fallacies

Week 4: The Practical Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-3: Apply logical processes, including mathematical models, to assess and evaluate problems (Application)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Describe critical thinking activities specific to varied professions.
2. : Apply different professional decision-making strategies.
3. : Define good argument and thesis statement.
4. : Describe relationship of thesis statement and evidence.
5. : Produce brief review of scholarly essay.

Required Readings

Week 4 Reading and Resources

Week 4 Lesson

Assignments

Week 4 Forum, Blog Post: The Practical Thinker

Week 4 Forum, Way Different Professions use Critical Thinking

Week 5: The Evaluating Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-3: Apply logical processes, including mathematical models, to assess and evaluate problems (Application)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Define credibility, objectivity, currency, and reliability in relation to sources.

2. : Apply criteria for evaluating sources to websites.
3. : Produce an annotated bibliography.

Required Readings

Week 5 Reading and Resources

Week 5 Lesson

Assignments

Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Week 6: The Mathematical Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-3: Apply logical processes, including mathematical models, to assess and evaluate problems (Application)

CO-4: Produce accurate calculations, symbolic operations, and logical processes in writing (Application)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Define Venn diagrams, truth tables, and argument diagrams.
2. : Describe different types of arguments and appeals.

Required Readings

Week 6 Reading and Resources

Week 6 Lesson

Assignments

Week 6 Forum, Blog Post: Constructing an Argument

Week 6 Forum, Diagramming an Argument

Week 7: The Designing Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-4: Produce accurate calculations, symbolic operations, and logical processes in writing (Application)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Describe charts and graphs that represent actions and numbers.
2. : Describe underlying assumptions and omitted information of charts and graphs.
3. : Integrate visual elements into argument .
4. : Produce effective infographic with argument and visual tools.

Required Readings

Week 7 Reading and Resources

Week 7 Lesson

Assignments

Week 7 Infographic

Week 8: The Reflective Thinker

Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives:

CO-3: Apply logical processes, including mathematical models, to assess and evaluate problems (Application)

CO-4: Produce accurate calculations, symbolic operations, and logical processes in writing (Application)

Weekly Objectives:

1. : Evaluate progress made in development of critical thinking skills.

Required Readings

Week 8 Reading and Resources

Week 8 Lesson

Assignments

Week 8 Forum, Critically Reflecting

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	48.00 %
Week 1 Forum	8.00 %
Week 2 Forum	8.00 %
Week 3 Forum	8.00 %
Week 4 Forum	8.00 %
Week 6 Forum	8.00 %
Week 8 Forum	8.00 %
Blog Posts	12.00 %
Week 2 The Inquiring Thinker	4.00 %
Week 4 The Practical Thinker	4.00 %
Week 6 Constructing an Argument	4.00 %
Assignments	20.00 %
Week 3: Full of Fallacies	10.00 %
Week 5: Source Evaluation	10.00 %
Infographic	20.00 %
Week 7: Infographic	20.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide, 4th ed. - e-book available in the APUS Online Library, link provided inside the classroom

Author: Bowell & Kemp

Publication Info: Routledge

ISBN: 9780415820912

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

You will follow the citation style that is common to your discipline. Instructions regarding citation styles are included in the classroom.

Tutoring

[Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. ***Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50% of the potential total score earned.***

Turnitin

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure the all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor.

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating on the Forum

Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.

"Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.

As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

Students must post a response to the weekly forums prompt and post the required number of replies to other students – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations on number of replies and word count requirements.

The main response to the forum is due mid-week – refer to the grading rubric and/or forum instructions for specific expectations. Late main response posts to a forum may not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week may not be graded.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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