

PH 103-20²⁰ Critical Thinking
 Instructor: Dr. Mark Brasher 381-6080

Shafter: Fridays 8:00-12:00
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This course will help you:

- Become an active learner
- Become a critical thinker
- View situations from different perspectives
- Solve complex problems
- Use language effectively
- Evaluate arguments and develop well-supported conclusions
- Compose argumentative papers

Textbook: *Thinking Critically* (6th edition) by John Chafee
 Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston: 2000. ISBN: 0395959314

This text provides content for an academically rigorous and innovative course which integrates various perspectives on the thinking process, drawn from the disciplines of philosophy, cognitive psychology, linguistics, and the language arts.

Format:

After the first meeting, students will read the upcoming chapter (introduced by the instructor) and do the assigned activities in the chapter. When class meets the instructor will explain the current topic in depth and lead discussion and other activities designed to reinforce critical thinking skills. Rather than having cumulative comprehensive exams, students will have weekly quizzes covering the current topic.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance is necessary for the entirety of each meeting in order to complete the course (unexpected conflicts such as hospitalization or deployment, will be excused on a case by case basis with proper documentation, according to Chaminade University policy). Excused absences will not result in a loss of points *if* a student turns in the chapter assignment and signs up to make up the missed quiz on the last class day. Missing assignments/quizzes will result in a substantial loss of points.
- Grading will be based upon satisfactory completion of weekly *class work* (including short exercises and essays) and *homework* (including exercises and finding news articles) as well as the average of the student's weekly quiz grades. Students can re-take their lowest quiz on the last day of class. The class-work and homework are pass/fail, with one grace period for one late assignment and one grace period for one incomplete assignment (if submitted the following week there is no grade loss for that one assignment).
- *Note: Students will need weekly access to newspapers, magazines and/or internet news sources.*

Weekly Schedule:

6 April 2001 Introduction - Meeting 1

- Introduction to course: overview, discussion of requirements, text, format
- Chapter 1. Thinking (pp. 1-39). Activities: 1.1- 1.8 (for 1.5: 1 page only)
 - Class discussion: "Jurors hear evidence..." 39-43, Activity 1.9 (2 par.)
- Quiz: chapter 1
- For next class: read Chapter 2 pp 44-81. Do activities 2.1 (#1), 2.3 , 2.6. For 2.1 tape tv commercials to bring to class on 20 January, prepare a short analysis using the handouts on critical analysis of television.

13 April 2001 Thinking Critically - Meeting 2

- Chapter 2. Thinking Critically
 - Class activities: 2.2, 2.4, 2.5. View student tapes.
- Quiz: Chapter 2
- For next week: read Chapter 3 pp. 90-122. Do Activity 3.3, and 3.4 (p. 122) and find two or more articles to bring to class.

20 April 2001 Solving Problems - Meeting 3

- Chapter 3. Solving Problems
 - Class activities: Thinking Activities 3.1, 3.2
- Quiz: Chapter 3
- For next week: read Chapter 4 pp. 130-155. Do activities 4.3, 4.4. *For 4.4 be sure to find the articles.*

27 April 2001 Perceiving - Meeting 4

- Chapter 4: Perceiving
 - Class: Thinking Activities 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6
- Quiz: Chapter 4
- For next week: read Chapter 5 pp. 164-201. Do thinking activities 5.5, 5.7, 5.8
For 5.5 be sure to find the articles.

4 May 2001 Believing and Knowing - Meeting 5

- Chapter 5: Believing and Knowing
 - Class activities: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6
- Quiz: Chapter 5
- For next week: We will not cover Chapters 6 and 7, read the summary at the end of chapter 6 and the summary at the end of Chapter 7. Read all of Chapter 8, and do Thinking Activities 8.3, 8.7, and 8.9 (apply it).

11 May 2001 Language and Thought, Forming, Applying, Relating and organizing Concepts (Chapter 6 and 7 overview; Chapter 8) - Meeting 6

- Chapter 6, 7 Summary Overview: Language and Concepts

- Chapter 8: Class Thinking activities: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.6
- Quiz: chapter 8
- For next week: read Chapter 9 pp. 351-385. Do thinking activities 9.2 (including finding articles), 9.5 and 9.6 (apply it).

18 May 2001 Reporting, Inferring and Judging - Meeting 7

Chapter 9: Reporting, Inferring and Judging

Class: Thinking Activities 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 9.4

Quiz: Chapter 9

For next week: read chapter 10 pp. 394-435. Do 10.4 (argumentative essay).

25 May 2001 Constructing Arguments - Meeting 8

Chapter 10: Constructing Arguments

Class: Thinking Activities 10.1, 10.2, 10.3. Discuss the essays for 10.4.

Quiz: Chapter 10

For next week: read chapter 11. pp. 446-489. Do thinking activities 11.3, 11.5 and 11.7 (apply it).

1 June 2001 Reasoning Critically. - Meeting 9

Chapter 11: Reasoning Critically

Class: Thinking activities 11.1, 11.2, 11.4, 11.6

Quiz: Chapter 11

For next week: read chapter 12: Do thinking activities 12.2, 12.3

8 June 2001 Thinking Critically, Living Creatively - Meeting 10 (End of Course)

Chapter 12: Thinking Critically, Living Creatively.

Class: Thinking activities: 12.1, 12.4, 12.5

Quiz: Chapter 12.

Make-up Quizzes, Re-take Quizzes