

WE '01
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PH 103-20 Critical Thinking
Instructor: Dr. Mark Brasher 381-6080
This course will help you:

Kaneohe: Saturdays 8:00-12:00
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- 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.

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). **If** students contact the instructor by phone or e-mail *as soon as possible* for make-up work (see below "Make-up Work"), submit the work and make up any exams as soon as possible their grade will not be reduced.
- 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 *mid-term and final exam* grades. The class-work is 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).
- *Students will need weekly access to newspapers, magazines and/or internet news sources.*

Make-up work:

- If you are unable to attend class for an excusable reason (hospitalization, deployment, etc.) and will be presenting documentation for your absence, you can make up the missed class time by writing an argumentative essay based on the current chapter topic. Call the instructor (381-6080) as soon as possible (and *prior to the next class meeting*) to find out what the topic question is. The essay must be approximately 1500 words and will be graded according to how well it addresses the topic, based on the content of the chapter. Unexcused absences, and failure to submit assigned make-up work will automatically result in a minimum 10% reduction in course grade per absence/assignment.

Weekly Schedule:

13 January 2001 Introduction

- 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.)
- Introduction to Chapter 2: Thinking Critically
- For next class: read Chapter 2 pp 44-81. Do activities 2.1 (#1), 2.2 , 2.4, 2.6, 2.7. 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.

20 January 2001 Thinking Critically

- Chapter 2. Thinking Critically
 - Class activities: 2.3, 2.5, 2.7; discuss 2.4. View student tapes.
- Introduction to Chapter 3: Solving Problems
- For next week: read Chapter 3 pp. 90-122. Read through the "thinking activities" which we will do in class, but do not do them (3.1-3.3) . Do Activity 3.4 (p. 122) and find two or more articles to bring to class.

27 January 2001 Solving Problems [Optional Paper Topic Statements Due]

- Chapter 3. Solving Problems
 - Class activities: Thinking Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
- Introduction to Chapter 4: Perceiving
- For next week: read Chapter 4 pp. 130-155. Do all of the thinking activities 4.1-4.6 *For 4.4 be sure to find the articles.*

3 February 2001 Perceiving

- Chapter 4: Perceiving
 - Class discussion: Thinking Activities 4.1-4.6; especially p. 144
- Introduction to Chapter 5: Believing and Knowing.
- For next week: read Chapter 5 pp. 164-201. Do thinking activities 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.8. For 5.4 be sure to find the articles.

10 February 2001 Believing and Knowing Mid-Term Exam

- Chapter 5: Believing and Knowing
 - Class discussion: Thinking Activities 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 (articles),
 - Class activities: 5.2 and interviews 5.6.
- Review of Chapters 1-5

Mid-term Exam on Chapters 1-5

- For next week: read Chapter 6: pp. 213-256. Do thinking activities 6.1, 6.2 (movie review), 6.4 and 6.6. For 6.2 you should write to convince the reader to see it / not see it.

17 February 2001 Language and Thought

- Chapter 6: Language and Thought
 - Class discussion: Thinking Activities 6.1 6.4 – 6.6. Class activities: do 6.3
- Introduction to Chapter 7 Forming and Applying Concepts and 8 Relating and Organizing (we will be skipping 7).
- For next week: read the summary of chapter 7 p. 301. Answer the questions on p. 307 (using pp. 301-307). Read Chapter 8 pp. 308-343. Do thinking activities 8.1 (to be read in class), 8.3, look at 8.4 on p. 321 and instead describe a comparison you have made (cars, apartments, stereos, etc.), do 8.5, read 8.6 but do not do it.

24 February 2001 Relating and Organizing

- Chapter 8: Relating and Organizing
 - Class discussion: Thinking Activities 8.1-8.9
 - Class activities: do 8.2, 8.6, 8.7 and discuss 8.9 (p. 321)
- Introduction to Chapter 9 Reporting, Inferring and Judging
- For next week: read Chapter 9 pp. 351-385. Do thinking activities 9.1 (including finding articles), 9.2 (including finding articles), 9.3 and 9.5. For activity 9.6, apply pp. 378-385)

3 March 2001 Reporting, Inferring and JudgingChapter 9: Reporting, Inferring and Judging

Class discussion: Thinking Activities 9.1 – 9.6

Class activities: 9.4

Introduction to Chapter 10: Constructing Arguments

For next week: read chapter 10 pp. 394-435. Do thinking activities 10.1 and 10.2 (If no further arguments occur to you, then pick a different topic of more interest to you to present arguments about. Also: see 10.4). Do 10.3 (for 10.3, #2 only *one* applies to each). Do 10.4 (argumentative essay): you can use the topic for 10.4 to complete exercises 10.1 and 10.2 if you had no further arguments for the topic in the textbook. Review the handout on deductive argumentation.

10 March 2001 Constructing ArgumentsChapter 10: Constructing Arguments

Class discussion: Thinking Activities 10.1 and 10.3. Discuss the essays for 10.4. Review handout on deductive arguments.

Introduction to Chapter 11 Reasoning Critically: detailed chapter overview

For next week: read chapter 11. pp. 446-489. Do all thinking activities 11.1- 11.7 and review chapters 6-11.

17 March 2001 Reasoning Critically. Conclusion of Course**Final Exam**Chapter 11: Reasoning Critically

Class discussion: Thinking activities 11.1-11.7

Review Chapters 6-11.

Final exam on chapters 6 – 11.

Recommended: Read Chapter 12 on Thinking Critically and Living Creatively.

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