

POH

SSTI  
1999

## CRITICAL THINKING- PH103

Instructor: C. R. Unni (tel: 941 8434; e-mail [crunni@lava.net](mailto:crunni@lava.net)) Summer 1999; June 28<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Objectives

The course aims at developing more than formal logical skills in students. We will cover the elements of deductive and inductive reasoning, a list of logical fallacies, rules of definitions, standards of validity in reasoning and principles of justified inductive generalizations. This is the theoretical part of the course. The important focus of the course is in developing practical skills. The students will write six critiques in the course. Examples of such critiques will include news media, film and television, advertisements, legal reasoning, ethical reasoning and scientific reasoning. There are other topics that the student who is interested may want to suggest. Instructor must approve the topic. We are also interested in looking at types of critiques: religious, political, literary history and so on.

### Requirements

Attendance:=10 %; Projects=60%; Final Project:=30%

### Grading

A=95-100; B=85 to 94; C=75-84; D=65-74; F=below 64.

### Schedule

#### Week 1: June 28 to July 2

General concepts of logic.  
Deduction and induction  
Truth and meaning  
Validity and soundness  
Rules of definition  
Fallacies.

#### Week 2: July 5 to July 9

News and the media  
How to critique editorials  
Is objective news possible?  
The politics of news.  
Coverage of domestic and foreign affairs.

#### Week 3: July 12 to July 16

Desire and need  
Moral concepts.  
Ought implies can  
Principles and consequences.  
Moral critique of character.

#### Week 4: July 19 to July 23

Law and morality.  
Substantive and procedural law.  
Common law and natural law traditions  
Constitutional system  
Legal critique and critical legal theory.

#### Week 5: July 26 to July 30

Advertisements and commercials.  
Television and cinema: theories.  
Film critique.  
Television critique.

Use value and sign value.

#### Week 6: August 2 to August 6

Critical thinking in the context of philosophy.  
Ideological critique  
Historical critique.  
Scientific critique.  
Political critique.  
Cultural critique.