

HUM 115 CRITICAL THINKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course introduces the use of critical thinking skills in the context of human conflict. Emphasis is on evaluating information, problem solving, approaching cross-cultural perspectives, and resolving controversies and dilemmas. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate orally and in writing the use of critical thinking skills in the analysis of appropriate texts. Students will be able to engage in rational discussions using reasons, arguments, exploration of consequences and motives, and crucial tests to explore the complexities of human relations. *This course has been approved to satisfy the comprehensive articulation agreement pre-major and/or elective course requirement.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The students will be able to:

- a. Develop a definition of critical thinking.
- b. Identify the parts of an argument.
- c. Construct an argument.
- d. Develop higher-order thinking processes to solve problems, to settle controversies, and to recognize and evaluate dilemmas.
- e. Recognize and evaluate the connection between language and thought.
- f. Understand causal reasoning and the scientific method and use these techniques for solving problems.
- g. Understand the connection between multicultural interaction and critical thinking.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Components of an argument
 - A. Issues
 - B. Evidence
 - C. Positions
 - D. Resolutions

- II. Understanding an argument
 - A. Listening carefully
 - B. Supporting views with reasons and evidence
 - C. Responding to points made
 - D. Asking questions

- III. Solving problems
 - A. Identifying the problem
 - B. Identifying alternative solutions
 - C. Evaluating advantages and disadvantages of each alternative

- IV. Evaluating language
 - A. Identifying the connection between language and thought
 - B. Examining the use of language in social contexts such as advertising

- V. Composing an argumentative paper
 - A. Generating ideas
 - B. Designing a main idea
 - C. Conducting research
 - D. Organizing ideas
 - E. Revising

- VI. Critical reasoning
 - A. Empirical generalizing
 - B. Recognizing fallacies of false generalization
 - C. Causal reasoning and fallacies
 - D. Examining other points of view
 - E. Constructing a solution, decision or prediction
 - F. Evaluating the consequences of a decision or solution

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.