

Syllabus Overview

This syllabus contains all relevant information about the course: Its objectives and outcomes, the grading criteria, the texts and other materials of instruction, and weekly topics, outcomes, assignments, and due dates. Consider this your roadmap for the course. Please read through the syllabus carefully and ask questions if you would like anything clarified. Please print a copy of this syllabus for reference.

Course Description

3 Credits

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to provide a basic knowledge of the art and discipline of critical thinking. Students will learn the various critical thinking standards and concepts including effective critical thinking, problem solving, logical reasoning, comparative reasoning, issue analysis and the application of critical thinking standards and strategies to determine and solve practical and theoretical problems. Students will explore the application of critical thinking concepts to real world situations in an effort to understand the critical thinking process. They will develop an ability to critically analyze the formulation and posing of questions to promote well-reasoned arguments on a variety of important

Course Outcomes

Course Outcomes at the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Determine the concepts of critical thinking and their applications
- Examine one's internal experience and emotional triggers that may inhibit critical thinking
- Identify patterns as well as gather and assess relevant information
- Apply elements of reasoning which include identifying arguments, fallacies and biases
- Formulate quality questions that lead to solid critical thinking and problem-solving
- Analyze and propose resolutions to problems through critical thinking processes
- Examine and critique alternative views in the media
- Analyze the gap between the real and ideal in situations, to draw conclusions
- Determine the qualities and characteristics of a mature critical thinker

Communication with Your Instructor

You will receive a welcome email from your instructor prior to the start of class. This email will contain your instructor's contact information. Your instructor will also be communicating with you via several methods in the course, including:

- **Announcements** – This communication tool, located on the navigation menu within your course in Canvas, contains important updates. Be sure to check for new announcements from your instructor each time you access your course.
- **Q&A** – Use this discussion board, located on the Home screen in your course, to communicate with your instructor and classmates regarding general course questions (i.e. missing links, assignment clarification, etc.).
- **Inbox** – Use the Inbox, located in the top right corner of Canvas, to send a message to your instructor or classmates.

Materials and Resources

Required or Supplemental Text or Resources:

Materials Required Resources:

Required movie, used in Weeks 4. Robert Luketic. (Director). (2001). Legally Blond [Motion picture]. United States.

There is no required textbook. All readings are provided within the course.

Suggested Texts (not required)

- Gormley, W. (2017, December 10). The Critical Advantage: Developing Critical Thinking Skills in School. Harvard Education Press.
- Fisher, A. (2001, December 10). Critical Thinking: An Introduction. Cambridge University Press.
- De Bono, E. (1994, August). De Bono's Thinking Course. New York: Facts on File Inc

Bookstore Information

The bookstore can be located in the left-hand navigation of any Canvas course.

Library Services

Detailed information about the eLibrary can be found in the LIB100: eLibrary Overview course and the Student Resource Center. This is a course that all students have access to during their academic career.

Canvas Help Desk and Technical Questions

If you experience technical issues in your course, please contact the Canvas Help Desk by clicking the Help link (top right corner within Canvas). There are 3 ways to contact them:

- Phone (888-628-2749)
- Live chat
- Report a problem (submit a ticket)

Be sure to notify your instructor of any technical difficulties you are experiencing.

Additional resources are available in the Student Resource Center and the Canvas Guides website:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 Intro to Critical Thinking: Thinking About Thinking	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the qualities of critical thinking • Analyze weak versus strong critical thinking traits • Demonstrate how to become a critical thinker • Determine why critical thinking is important personally and professionally
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is philosophy? • What is critical thinking and why is it important? • Metacognitive strategies that enhance critical thinking • Business Does Not Need the Humanities — But Humans Do
Lectures	Critical thinking - Fundamentals: Introduction to Critical Thinking
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Critical Thinking? • How to think, not what to think • Growth Mindset Introduction: What it is, How it Works, and Why it Matters
Optional Resource	Thinking, fast and slow
Discussion	Rethinking our Opinions about Critical Thinking
Assignments	Individual Assignment Metacognition
Week 2 How we get in our own way when thinking?	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the qualities of our own limitations, by questioning our assumptions • Analyze the role of emotions and the desire to be right • Understand why neurobiological factors are at play • Demonstrate awareness of own emotional reactivity
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surprising power of questions • Learn how to use the best ideation methods: challenge assumptions. • Recognizing the distinction between observation and judgement
Lectures	Your Role in the Critical Thinking Process: How do we become self-aware?
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why you think you're right - even if you're wrong • On being wrong • Where good ideas come from

Discussion	How do we become self-aware?
Assignments	Individual Assignment How do our emotions impact critical thinking?
Quiz	Refer to your course
Week 3	Logic and Critical Thinking: Fallacies and Arguments
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how critical thinking impacts and informs self-improvement • Identify fallacies • Recognize the need to critique personal thinking • Evaluate encountered information
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Find Evidence to Support Any Argument • Asking the Right Questions • The School of Thought. An interactive list of fallacious arguments
Lectures	Common logical pitfalls and basics of formal arguments
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pattern Behind Self Deception • 5 Tips to Improve your Critical Thinking • How To Win Every Argument Without Ever Being Right
Optional Resource	Excerpt from A Whole New Mind
Discussion	Fallacious Thinking
Assignments	Individual Assignment Critical Thinking Quizzes
Week 4	Biases in Thinking: Egocentric and Sociocentric Thinking
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify biases in everyday life • Differentiate between different types of biases • Continue to question our assumptions • Breakdown the binary – biases exist in all individuals
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive biases • Inquiry-Based Learning: The Power of Asking the Right Questions • Egocentricity or sociocentricity
Lectures	What are biases and why do we have trouble recognizing them?

Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcoming Egocentric and Sociocentric thought: From knowledge to commitment in critical thinking • Can prejudice ever be a good thing? • A tale of two Americas. And the mini-mart where they collided
Optional Resource	Spent
Discussion	Biased Thinking in the media
Assignments	Individual Assignment Instructions: Individual Assignment: Legally Blond & Watching the Movie
Quiz	Refer to your course
Week 5	Critical Thinking and Consequences
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the link between ethical decision making and critical thinking • Recognize ethical and unethical decisions • Use critical thinking to make ethical decisions
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral values • A Society with Poor Critical Thinking Skills: The Case for 'Argument' in Education • Resolving ethical dilemmas in the workplace: A new focus for career development • The Ethical Practice of Critical Thinking
Lectures	Ethical Principles in Critical Thinking
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics vs morals • Sam Harris: Science can answer moral questions • Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do?
Optional Resource	The moral truth. In The moral landscape: How science can determine human values
Discussion	Universal or Relative Ethics
Assignments	Individual Assignment Ethical Dilemmas in the Workplace

Week 6 Critical Thinking Tools for Learning	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the link between critical thinking and innovation • Think critically to evaluate daily situations • Use problem-solving tools to aid in critical thinking • Identify the root cause in a problem
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Ways To Reframe A Problem To Find An Innovative Solution • 8 ways to be a more savvy science reader • Capacity to act
Lectures	Problem Solving and Creative Thinking
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical thinking and problem solving: Make better decisions • Learning to Think Critically • How to evaluate an argument
Discussion	Jigsaw Activity: Tool Analysis
Assignment	Create your Own Scenario using the Logic Model
Quiz	Refer to your course
Week 7 Critical Thinking for Business Professionals	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize how critical thinking is crucial for success in a career • Understand why employers are seeking critical thinkers as assets • Co-create solutions to problems
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning analysis • Using and evaluating definitions • Management Is Much More Than a Science
Lectures	The Critical Thinking Advantage – 100 year life
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Critical Thinking in Business</i> • <i>Critical Thinking in Business (Part 2)</i> • <i>Critical Thinking in Business (Part 3)</i>
Optional Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How leaders should think critically • Robert E. Rubin: Philosophy Prepared Me for a Career in Finance and Government
Discussion	Impact on Business

Assignments	Individual Assignment Instructions: Solve the Scenario
Week 8	Applied Critical Thinking
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why we fall short of our critical thinking goals and technique for recognizing our errors • Apply critical thinking in different circumstances • Recognize the need for critical thinking in all aspects of life
Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical thinking development: A stage theory • Why great thinkers sometimes fail to think critically • What Sets Successful CEOs Apart
Lectures	Critical Thinking as personal discipline
Multimedia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to motivate yourself to change your behavior</i> • <i>Curious how to be brave? Here's what research says</i>
Discussion	In Hypothesis: Why do we fail to think critically?
Assignments	Individual Assignment Instructions: What is your Thinking Style
Quiz	Refer to your course

Grading and Evaluation

Your grades will reflect the way in which you present and support your topics and positions in the various learning activities used in this course. The grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments and responses in the various activities.

Be sure to review the discussion and assignment rubrics in the course for specific grading criteria.

The various graded activities are weighted as follows:

Course Element	% of Final Grade
Assignments	45
Discussions	40
Quizzes	15
Total	100%

Students will be expected to meet all the deadlines of the class as indicated throughout the course and in the syllabus. This is primarily so we don't get behind in the course. In addition, discussions cannot overlap from one week to the next. This is to ensure that all discussions and submissions take place within the week they are scheduled in order to be of value to the entire class as well as to help you not get behind. If there are extenuating circumstances, you will need to communicate that to the instructor and make arrangements accordingly, if appropriate.

Late Assignments: Exceptions are to be determined by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Learner Success Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to help you succeed in your coursework:

- Participate in the class introduction activity on the first day of class.
- Submit ALL assignments by the posted due dates and times.
- Check your emails daily.
- Contact Portal Help for logon problems or Canvas Help for technical issues with Canvas.
- Participate fully in all threaded discussions.
- Contact your instructor if you have questions about an assignment or need additional help completing your work successfully. Academic dishonesty is grounds for dismissal from the program.

Academic Policies

The following Academic Policies can be found in the [Student Resource Center](#).

- Grading Criteria
- Reasonable Accommodations Policy
- Student Attendance Policy

- Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy
- Student Engagement and the Granting of Academic Credit
- Copyright Policy

Caveat

The above schedule, content, and procedures in this course are subject to change. All policies are superseded by the latest College Catalog available on our website:

<https://www.cambridgecollege.edu/student-rights-complaints-grievances/student-code-conduct>