

HUM 115 Critical Thinking

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or DRE 098; 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:

1. Develop a definition of critical thinking.
2. Identify thinking as a process.
3. Evaluate the quality of thought processes
4. Develop higher-order thinking processes to solve problems, to settle controversies, and to recognize and evaluate dilemmas.
5. Recognize and evaluate the connection between thought and action.
6. Understand causal reasoning and the scientific method and use these techniques for solving problems.
7. Understand and analyze the connection between multicultural perspectives and evaluate critical and ethical reasoning accordingly.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Components of a thinking
 - A. Purpose
 - B. Context
 - C. Point of View
 - D. Implications
- II. Solving problems
 - A. Identifying the problem
 - B. Identifying alternative solutions
 - C. Evaluating advantages and disadvantages of each alternative
- III. Evaluating perspectives
 - A. Identifying the connection between thought and action
 - B. Analyzing and evaluating various perspectives as they relate to thinking and acting.
- IV. Critical and ethical 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 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.