

CRITICAL THINKING INTENSIVE COURSES

Definition: Critical thinking is the process of purposeful, self-directed judgment. This process improves the quality of thinking and decision-making through reasoned, systematic consideration of context, concepts, methods and evidence.

Criteria: A critical thinking course will have (A) components of formally-stated assessments and strategies specifically designed to promote at least two (2) of the following objectives and (B) a process by which the course's critical thinking components will be assessed by the instructor and factored into the students course grade.

Objectives:

(The following are process objectives, which reflect thinking processes, as distinguished from content objectives.)

At the completion of the course students will be better able to:

- Evaluate and interpret the meaning of the textual material.
- Support a thesis with evidence appropriate to position and audience.
- Organize and connect ideas.
- View situations from different perspectives.
- Compare and contrast source material so that analysis can be made and theories can be proved or disproved.
- Draw inferences, suppositions, and conclusions from source materials.
- Perform a medley of solutions to a possible problem and present those solutions in a logical, coherent manner.
- Differentiate between fact and fiction, concrete and abstract, theory and practice.
- Make estimates and approximations and judge the reasonableness of the result.
- Apply quantitative and/or qualitative techniques, tools, formulas and theories in the solution of real-life problems and recognize when to apply those techniques, tools, formulas, and theories.
- Interpret data presented in tabular and graphical form and utilize that data to draw conclusions.
- Use quantitative relationships to describe results obtained by observation and experimentation.
- Interpret in non-quantitative language relationships presented in quantitative form.
- Apply the scientific method including methods of validating the results of scientific inquiry.