

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM ID 301-05 CRITICAL THINKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course helps students develop and strengthen the ability to reason soundly and critically. It addresses the purpose and process of critical thinking, language and critical thinking, patterns of argument, and modes of reasoning. Prerequisites: ENG 102, Junior Standing. Three semester credits.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, a student will:

1. Define problems.
2. Distinguish between fact and opinion.
3. Propose and evaluate solutions.
4. Defend a conclusion rationally.
5. Understand how words work.
6. Possess a better understanding of systematic reasoning.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1. Text: Porter, Burton F., The Voice of Reason: Fundamentals of Critical Thinking. Oxford University Press, New York, NY: 2002
2. Syllabus.

You may purchase your textbook through MBS Direct by calling their toll free number at: 800-325-3252 or through the UIU homepage: www.uiu.edu. Click on the link called Resources for Center, External Degree and Online Program learners. Follow the link and select External Degree for your location.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Prior to starting the course each student should submit the initial Critical Thinking assignment directly to the instructor. **The assignment should be submitted before reading any of the text material.** Students are expected to read the chapters in the textbook assigned and to answer the study questions in this syllabus relating to each chapter. It is strongly recommended that students complete the entire unit and receive the graded work back from the Instructor prior to taking the exam. Students may request their exams using the Exam Request form in the syllabus at any time but should allow 2–3 weeks for the assignments to be returned from the Instructor.

1. **Complete the initial Critical Thinking assignment and submit to instructor.**
2. Read the chapters in the textbook as assigned.
3. Answer the study questions in this syllabus for chapters 1 - 3, Unit I.
4. Answer the study questions in this syllabus for chapters 4 - 6, Unit II.
5. Take the Mid Term Examination.
6. Answer the study questions in this syllabus for chapters 7 - 9, Unit III.
7. Answer the study questions in this syllabus for chapters 10 - 12, Unit IV.
8. Take the Final Examination.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION:

There are two (2 ea.) examinations. Each examination covers two UNITS. Each examination covers only material from the specific two UNITS.

Each examination consists of fill in the blank and short answer essay. Each fill in the blank question is worth one point. Each short answer essay is worth five points. You will have three hours for each test. You are **NOT PERMITTED TO USE YOUR TEXTBOOK** during the two examinations. No other books, notes or other material will be allowed in your possession during the test.

NOTE: You must pass at least one proctored exam to pass this course.

COMPOSITION OF GRADE:

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 100 questions @ 2 point ea. (Open Book) | = | 200 points |
| 20 questions @ 10 point ea. (Open Book) | = | 200 points |
| Mid-term Exam | | |
| 25 questions @ 1 point per question | = | 25 points |
| 5 ea. Short answer essay @ 5 points | = | 25 points |
| Final Exam | | |
| 25 questions @ 1 point per question | = | 25 points |
| 5 ea. short answer essay @ 5 points | = | <u>25 points</u> |
| Total | | 500 points |

Upper Iowa University uses a standard grading system:

Total points earned as a percentage of 500 possible points will be graded using the following scale:

| | |
|---|------------|
| A | 100 to 90% |
| B | 89 to 80% |
| C | 79 to 70% |
| D | 69 to 60% |
| F | Below 60% |

A = All work is excellent, shows exceptional understanding of materials; logical, clear and insightful written and oral work, incorporates knowledge from other sources and moves easily to the next level of understanding, works well beyond minimum requirements.

B = Understanding of material is good to very good, demonstrates good grasp of material, good oral and written skills, produces more than the minimum requirements, quality of all work is high.

C = Satisfactory understanding of the material, submits only the minimum requirements, communicates adequately in oral and written formats, displays an adequate understanding of all basic concepts.

D = Quality and quantity of written and oral work is below average and barely acceptable.

F = Quality and quantity of written and oral work is unacceptable.

CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM:

Because cheating, academic dishonesty and plagiarism are affronts to the University community as a whole and a denial of the offender's own integrity, they will not be tolerated. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- the use of unauthorized books, notes or other sources in the giving or securing of help in an examination or other course assignments,
- the copying of other students' work or allowing others to copy your work,
- the submission of work that is not your own or allowing others to submit your work as theirs,
- the submission of the same work for two or more classes without the approval of any instructors involved.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- sharing academic materials knowing they will be used inappropriately,
- having access to another person's work without permission,
- providing false or incomplete information on an academic document,
- changing student records without approval.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- the presentation of another's published or unpublished work as one's own,
- taking words or ideas of another and either copying them or paraphrasing them without proper citation of the source,
- using charts, graphs, statistics or tables without proper citation.

Detected cheating, academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will result in consequences that may, at the instructor's discretion, include course failure. In addition, an offender may be reported to the Senior Vice President for the Extended University, the Dean of the Extended University, or designee for possible disciplinary action, which may include suspension or dismissal from the University. Upper Iowa University may make use of various plagiarism detection services. Individuals, by enrolling in courses offered by the University, consent to submission by the University of course-related assignments to such services and the retention of a copy of such assignments by the service. Extended University Catalog 2004/05 page 85.

ATTENDANCE:

Even though a student does not attend a regular classroom in the traditional sense and keep up with a set schedule of assignments, it should be pointed out how important it is to keep yourself on a regular timely schedule if possible to complete and send in units. It is too easy to set work aside and decide to do it later. Suddenly, the need to complete assignments and get them in by deadlines can become stressful and, at times, impossible. The key would be to set time aside on a regular basis and submit work in a timely manner.

LIBRARY RESOURCES:

As a student of Upper Iowa University, you have access to the resources of the Henderson-Wilder Library on the Fayette campus. If travel to the campus is not feasible, you can access the library through the University's website. For InfoTrac access information, please contact the library at library@uiu.edu.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you wish to withdraw prior to the last day of the enrollment period you must contact the External Degree office by phone or in writing. After your original six-month enrollment period you no longer have the option to withdraw from the course. You must finish the course or have a final grade assigned on the coursework submitted.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you require accommodation for special needs, please provide documentation to the Director of External Degree.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.