

Critical Thinking in English

Course Outline – Spring 2021

1. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Critical Thinking in English is an advanced language course designed to facilitate the improvement of students' skills in logic and argumentation. The course is as an introduction to various elements of critical thinking including formal and informal logic, argumentation, and rhetoric. In developing these skills, students will apply critical thinking to real-life situations and issues that will help to develop their understanding of the English language. Students should also expect to improve their confidence and clarity in both spoken and written English. The overall aim is to educate students on how to use critical thinking in English in order to develop both their academic skills and analytic capabilities.

2. COURSE CONTENT

The course content is designed to facilitate an understanding of critical thinking and the English language required to use it. Language skills will be developed throughout the course, with each discussion issue being accompanied by a list of relevant vocabulary and phraseology. A detailed outline is provided as follows:

The course structure compromises of three parts:

- a) **Formal Logic:** vocabulary introduction, the structure of arguments, recognising arguments with real-life examples, and reconstructing arguments.
- b) **Informal Logic:** analysing argument strength, types of rhetoric, recognising rhetoric with real-life examples, and logical fallacies.
- c) **Applied Critical Thinking Skills:** skills will be applied to issues in the media, advertising, and technology.

The course will also employ various tasks and exercises that will assist the students in developing their skills in the above topics as they apply to English. Throughout the course, language exercises will be used to ensure that the skills covered in these topics are not learnt in 'abstraction' but are acquired and applied in academic and real-world situations.

Week-by-Week Course Outline (Guide)

Week	Content	Assessment(s)	Location
1	Course Introduction Introduction to Critical	None	Class
2	Thinking and Argumentation Sentence Types Premises and Conclusions	None	Class
3	Propositions Deduction vs Induction Evaluating Arguments	None	Class
4	Validity/Force/Soundness Logical Forms	Quiz 1: Arguments	Language Lab Class
5	Assessing Arguments Refutation by Counterexample Evaluating Inductive Arguments Induction and Abduction	None	Class
6	Argument Reconstruction Premise and Conclusion Indicators Inference	Quiz 2: Argument Assessment	Language Lab Class
7	READING WEEK	None	None
8	Standard Form Argument Mapping Argument Evaluation	None	Class
9	Explicit/Implicit Propositions	None	Class
10	Presentation and Interview	Presentation and Interview	Class
11	Rhetoric and Fallacies Identifying Use of Rhetoric Types of Fallacies	Critical Essay	Class
12	Fallacy Identification Fallacies Practice Quiz	None	Class
13		None	Class
14	Presentation: Logical Fallacy Identification	Presentation: Logical Fallacy Identification	Class