Plan for the course

You will receive basic info

You will be active participants

You will be given problems to solve, and your success in problem solution will be the focus of attention and evaluation

You will be more concerned with the process rather than the final end result

Critical thinkers care that their beliefs be true and that their decisions be justified. That is to care to “get it right” to the most extent possible.

Seek other opinions and facts be open to them

Be well informed

Consider seriously, points of view other than their own.

Care to present a position honestly and clearly, theirs as well as others

Be clear abut the intended meaning of what is said written etc seeking as much information

Determine and maintain focus on the conclusion or question

Seek and offer the reasons for their opinions / conclusions

Take into account the whole situation

Be reflectively aware of their own basic beliefs

Care about other points of view and treat it with respect

Avoid intimidating and confusing others, taking into account others feelings and level of understanding

Are concerned about others welfare

Are concerned about educating others on the issue

Steps in critical thinking

Focus on a question

* Identify and formulate the question
* Develop criteria for judging possible answers
* Develop a plan for collecting data

Develop an argument

* Generate premises and conclusions (the whereas and therefore)
* Develop reasons steps/support for the conclusions (the “why”)