

Course Code	SSH101				
Course Name	Critical Thinking and Readings in Social Science				
Credits	4				
Course Offered to	UG				
Course Description	This course offers an introduction to ideas about reasoning and elements of thinking critically. In particular, it develops an appreciation of the relevance of reasoning and ideation in the realm of the social sciences. It includes an introduction to key elements and concepts of reasoning and informal logic as well as an applied component which uncovers the value of critical thinking involved in social theory building. In the first part of the course, students will learn about types and nature of good and bad arguments. They'll be able to differentiate and evaluate the logic in deductive arguments and understand key concepts of validity and soundness. Similarly, students will also be introduced to ideas in inductive thinking and to ways in which one can spot fallacies and other common mistakes. In addition, this course also introduces students, many of whom will be handling social science data for the first time, to the role of critical thinking in social theory development; including in making observations, developing concepts as well as in coming up with explanations that form the basis for doing modern social sciences. The course ends with an exposition on the role of computational power and its implications for values in an era of big data.				
Pre-requisites					
Pre-requisite (Mandatory)	Pre-requisite (Desirable)	Pre-requisite(other)			
Nil	Btech. CS+SS				
Post Conditions					
CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5	CO6
Independently and critically annotate texts and use online tool Kialo to compare a popular debate in the media	Students will be able to differentiate amongst the types of argument and understand the role of logic in deductive arguments through ideas such as validity and soundness.	To be able to tell the distinction between inductive and deductive reasoning and explore ideas of strength in judging arguments	Students will apply and demonstrate skills in critical reasoning by also exposing weakness in arguments as well as be able to spot common fallacies	Introduction to ideas and reasoning in social theory building; including in making observations, developing concepts as well as in development of explanations.	Rethink the basis for thinking in social sciences in IT era and introduce debates about inferences versus prediction and other conundrums.
Weekly Lecture Plan					
Week Number	Lecture Topic	COs Met	Assignment/Labs/Tutorial		
1	CriticalReading: Annotating and basic tools	C1			
2	Introdcion to Kialo: A practical guide	C1, C2	Article 1 (Reading)		
3	Critical Thinking and introduction to arguments	C2	Article 2 (Read, annotate)		
4	Types of Arguments	C2			
5	Inductive Reasoning	C2,C3			
6	Deductive reasoning and formal logic	C2, C3			
7	Bad Arguments 1: Fallacies	C4			
8	Bad arguments 2: Vagueness and and other problems	C4			
9	Reasoning projects: Workshop on academic reading/writing	C1, C5	Argument selection		
10	Reasoning in Social Sciences part 1: Concept building	C5	Summary article		
11	CT and Social Sciences Part 2: Analogies and typologies	C5	Summary article		
12	CT and social sciences Part 3: Explanation	C5	Summary article		
13	Social Sciences in computational age	C6	Portfolio presentations		
13	Revision and presentations	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6	Portfolio presentations		
Assessment Plan					
Type of Evaluation	% Contribution in Grade				
Class participation	20%				
Mid-sem exam	20%				
Final exam	30%				
Group project (on Kialo)	30%				
Resource Material					
Type	Title				
Key textbook	Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (2018)Think Again: How to Reason and Argue, Oxford University Press.				
Additional references	Fraenkel, C. (2015) "Teaching Plato in Palestine Philosophy in a Divided World" Princeton University Press.				
Additional references	Swedberg, R. (2015) The Art of Social Theory. Princeton University Press.				