Critical Thinking
CRIT 1101-05; CRN 20741
Spring, 2016
University Center, U272; MW 12:45pm – 2:00pm

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Introduction: Every class you take in college will help strengthen your critical thinking skills in one way or another. This, however, is likely the only class you will take that focuses on thinking itself – teaching you methods and tools of analyzing language and arguments, as well as giving you quite a bit of practice using these skills. We are surrounded by information, much of it good, most of it bad. Critical thinking helps you sort through this information, analyze it for its trustworthiness, organize it, and present it convincingly to others. We will spend this semester studying the logical structure of language, various levels of evidence presented for different types of conclusions, good reasoning and bad reasoning, and how to tell the difference between the two.

Catalog Description: A course focusing on skills essential to effective critical thinking in both academic and general use. The study of important common components (issue, method, evidence, conclusion) provides a basis for the construction, analysis, and evaluation of arguments in a variety of contexts. The course also addresses fundamental elements of informal logic (e.g., induction, deduction, fallacy-avoidance) and of elementary formal logic (e.g., tests for validity) as they inform good reasoning in any context, from everyday decision-making to academic argumentation.

Course Learning Outcomes: (1) To familiarize students with Critical Thinking. (2) To enhance communication skills, oral and written. (3) To teach analysis of complex concepts, ideas, definitions, and arguments.

General education outcomes: The following link provides the Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Learning Goal III):

- [http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core_curriculum_outcomes_clayton.pdf](http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core_curriculum_outcomes_clayton.pdf)

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites: Learning Support students who are required to take ENGL 0099 and/or READ 0099 must exit the requirement(s) before they can enroll in this course.

Computer Requirement: Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU’s Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to:

- [http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy](http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy)

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using the Clayton State University e-mail system using Outlook™.
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser
In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers: Student computers will not be used in the classroom in this course. Computers will be required to complete homework, submit written assignments, access course materials, and communicate with your instructor.

Desire2Learn (Online Classroom):
On-line activity, including paper submission, will take place in Desire2Learn (D2L), the virtual classroom for the course.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: “D2L” on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Access to the Aplia Website (comes with the purchase of a new textbook, or can be purchased independently from Cengage.com)

Evaluation:          Grading:         
Writing Assignments  20%   A  90 - 100%       
Homework            20%   B  80 – 89.5%      
Exams               15% each (60% total)  C  70 – 79.5%      
TOTAL               100%   D  60 – 69.5%      
F  Below 60%

Requirements Explained:
1. Writing Assignments: Throughout the course, there will be several writing response assignments, where you will be asked to evaluate arguments in detail, offer counter arguments, apply a concept to your own life, or reflect critically on an argument.
2. Homework: The homework will take place on-line through the Aplia website. All homework assignments will be weighted equally, regardless of Aplia point value. The four lowest homework scores will be dropped.
3. Exams: The exams will be a mixture of true and false, multiple choice, and problem solving. The best way to study for the exams is to complete your homework thoroughly and on time, and to review it before the exam. There will be four, equally weighted exams throughout this course.

University Services
- Disability Services: Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.
- Writer’s Studio: The Writer’s Studio offers free 30 minute tutoring sessions to all students to assist with writing skills. Located in the Arts and Sciences building, Room 224. Drop-ins welcome if they have a free tutor, or you can make an appointment. 678-466-4728, or book on-line: http://www.clayton.edu/writersstudio/home.
- Center for Academic Success: Clayton State offers free, one-on-one tutoring to students of all subjects. Call the CAS at 678-466-4070, or schedule an appointment on-line: http://www.clayton.edu/cas/tutoring/scheduleappointment.
- Library: Students are encouraged to go further into depth with their understanding of logic, arguments, and the issues we discuss. The library is a valuable resource; stop by and check out the philosophy shelf!
Mid-term Progress Report: The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued on February 25, reflects approximately 30% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, or withdraw on-line using the Swan by mid-term, which occurs on March 4. Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link: http://www.clayton.edu/registrar/withdrawal

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, March 4, 2016.

General Policy: Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities.

University Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students’ ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy: Attendance is expected for all class periods. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for material covered in that class, including any new deadlines or assignments. For this reason, if you are absent, contact your instructor to find out what you missed. There are activities and assignments that take place during class time that cannot be made up should the student be absent, regardless of the reason for the absence.

Disruption of the Learning Environment: Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Clayton State University Academic Catalog and Student Handbook starting on page 14.

Academic Dishonesty: Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else’s words or ideas in your presentation or writing without giving that person credit. Even paraphrase is plagiarism if you do not properly cite your source. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Community Standards. Judicial procedures are described beginning on page 19 in the section of the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions.

Plagiarism Detection Software
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.
**Missed Work:** Without an excuse, missed work cannot be submitted. An excuse for missed work must be accompanied with documentation from a doctor or other competent authority that explains why the student was unable to submit the assignment on time. With a valid excuse:

- Exams must be made up within four calendar days of the original test. The make-up test will be different from, and may be more difficult than, the test administered in class.
- Writing assignments can be made up at the discretion of the instructor; make-ups which are allowed must be turned in within four calendar days of the original due-date. Note, unexcused late papers will be accepted, but a late penalty will apply.
- Homework assignments cannot be turned in late, due to the nature of the software.

**Other Policies:** The use of cell phones within class is forbidden. The use of laptops is forbidden unless the class is requested to look at the homework and/or textbook. Students are expected to come to class prepared, attentive, and participating only in the business of the class – no homework from other classes, e-mail, or other distracting behavior will be permitted. Students should not come to class late, and should not leave during class, unless an unavoidable situation arises. During exams and quizzes, students may not use or look at cell phones, books, notes, or other students’ work. Desks must be clear of anything not necessary to take the exam. Students who come in more than a few minutes late for an exam may not be allowed to take the exam.
**Readings and Important Dates** *Note: this is a tentative schedule. Changes will be announced as they occur.*

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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| **Week 1** January 11<sup>th</sup> | Monday: Syllabus, What Is Critical Thinking  
Wednesday: Chapter 1.1 |  |
| **Week 2** January 18th | Monday: No classes  
Wednesday: 1.3 | MONDAY: no classes.  
MLK Day. |
| **Week 3** January 25th | Monday: 1.3 & 1.4  
Wednesday: 1.4 |  |
| **Week 4** February 1st | Monday: 3.1 and 3.2  
Wednesday: 3.2 |  |
| **Week 5** February 8th | Monday: 3.3  
Wednesday: 3.4 |  |
| **Week 6** February 15th | Monday: Exam 1, chapters 1 and 3  
Wednesday: Chapter 9 | Exam 1:  
Chapters 1 and 3 |
| **Week 7** February 22nd | Monday and Wednesday: Chapter 10 |  |
| **Week 8** February 29th | Monday and Wednesday: Chapter 12 | March 4th: last day to withdraw from a class with a “W”  
Spring Break, March 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> – no classes |
| **Week 9** March 7<sup>th</sup> | No Classes |  |
| **Week 10** March 14th | Monday: Exam 2, chapters 9, 10, and 12  
Wednesday: 6.1 | Exam 2:  
Chapters 9, 10, and 12 |
| **Week 11** March 21st | 6.2 and 6.3 |  |
| **Week 12** March 28th | 6.4 and 6.6 |  |
| **Week 13** April 4th | Monday: 6.6  
Wednesday: Exam 2 | Exam 3  
Chapter 6 |
| **Week 14** April 11th | 7.1 |  |
| **Week 15** April 18th | 7.2 |  |
| **Week 16** April 25th | 7.3 |  |
| **Finals** May 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup> | Monday, May 2nd: Practice and Review  
Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>: Final Exam, 12:30 – 2:30pm | Exam 4  
Chapter 7  
Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 2:30pm |