

Course Information



Reasoning Rat. Dec-Mkg (CM)

PHIL 1250-001

Fall 2025

Course Section Information

Days: Tues & Thurs

Time: 1 until 2:20pm

Campus: Taylorsville

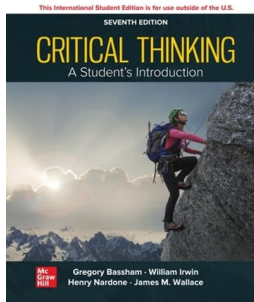
Classroom: AAB 320

Course Description

This course strengthens reasoning, communication, and argumentation skills in professional, academic, and public contexts. We focus on creating, analyzing, and evaluating arguments (the good, the bad, and the ugly) in a variety of forms: scientific, causal, statistical, analogical, moral, legal, political, and other reasoning methods encountered in our professional, personal, and civic lives.

Semester: All

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials



Authors: Gregory Bassham, William Irwin, Henry Nardone, James M. Wallace

Publication Date: 2022

Title: Critical Thinking

Subtitle: A Student's Introduction

Edition: 7th

Publisher: McGraw Hill

ISBN: 978-1265204600

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify and apply key principles in, and obstacles to, clear-reasoning, argument-analysis and argument-creation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the forms and methods of argument analysis, through argument critique (breaking-down of arguments), and diagramming.
- Analyze and Use various formats of argument-communication, including academic, editorial, conversational, scientific, statistical, and other.
- Identify, Analyze and Evaluate the inductive and deductive foundations of reasoning methods and knowledge claims within sciences and other fields of knowledge production: the role of empiricism, first principles, falsifiability, assumptions and paradigms, etc.
- Analyze and evaluate inductive arguments: causal reasoning, generalizations, probability, statistical and analogical reasoning.
- Apply Aristotelian theories of syllogistic logic as they perform logical tests for validity and soundness, using Venn Diagrams and other forms of validity testing.
- Identify logical fallacies that distort, deceive, or that weaken arguments. Recognize ambiguous, presumptuous, irrelevant and other discursive and logical manipulations, in their own arguments and in others.
- Analyze how disciplinary knowledges are affected by the discursive schema of spheres outside of their discipline, and explore strategies for communication and debate between disciplines, methodologies and spheres.

- Identify and analyze issues and discourses from a variety of points of view, and with different methodologies.
- Integrate models of argumentation within their own disciplinary studies, professional arenas, and public life.
- Deconstruct and analyze the logical (and illogical) dimensions of argument, and integrate these skills in the formulation and evaluation of their own arguments.
- Strengthen their ability to hear, understand and respond cogently and critically to those ideas and positions encountered in everyday life, in the classroom, and in the public sphere.
- Develop skills that will enable them to respectfully and effectively participate in public and professional life with those who differ in perspectives and positions on important issues.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Attendance	Assignment	25
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
9/4/25	Chp 2 Homework	Assignment	10

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

GRADING: Your grade will reflect your completion of five general assignments:

1) ATTENDANCE - There are 28 classes to attend during the semester (not including exams), and you will receive 1 point for each class you attend up to a total of 25 points. This means that you can miss 3 classes during the semester without penalty. Attendance will count for a total of 20% of your total final grade. Note: if it becomes evident that you have showed up for

class not having done the reading assignment (or other requested preparation), then you will not receive attendance credit even if you were in class.

2) HOMEWORK – When it comes to becoming a good critical thinker, the only way to learn is to practice, practice, practice. As such, you will be assigned various homework exercises out of the textbook or on Canvas. Please type out the answers and submit them on Canvas prior to class. This work will together count for 25% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the due dates and exercise numbers of your various assignments.

3) QUIZZES - There will be 2 shorter online quizzes that you must take. They are “open book,” but there are also limits on how much time you have to complete them. These quizzes will count for 20% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the deadlines on each quiz.

4) EXAMS – There will be 2 longer in-class exams that you must take. These exams will count for 25% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the dates of each exam.

5) ESSAY - For a final assignment, you must write an argumentative essay. Specific instructions will be given on Canvas. This essay will be worth 10% of your total final grade. See the “Schedule of Readings & Assignments” for the due date.

Grading Scale

All grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A =93+, A- =92-90, B+ =89-87, B =86-83, B- =82-80, C+ =79-77,

C =76-73, C- =72-70, D+ =69-67, D =66-63, D- =62-60, F =59-0

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within 24 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments as soon as possible. The best way to contact me is through Canvas message as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

General Education Information

CM

This course fulfills the above requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

Additional Class Policies

Good spelling and grammar are expected on all work that you turn in. (Exceptions will be made for the in-class exams.) Points will be taken off for submissions that have not been carefully proofread. Homework or essays with significant errors will automatically be deducted a minimum of 15%. As a review, consider viewing the short slide show on grammar and spelling which is posted in the General Information module. Also, make use of the spell-check and grammar-check options that are available as part of your computer's word processing program.

All cell phones should be turned off upon entering the classroom. This also means no texting. If computer use becomes a distraction (watching YouTube videos, Instagram, etc.), then they will be turned off as well.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Academic Integrity

Academic Dishonesty: As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work." And yes, **substantive use of AI does count as cheating**. My advice to you is to use it as little as possible for this class. Because the school does have AI-

detection software, using it even in small ways to do the work in this course can open you up to accusations of cheating and the failure of your assignments.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

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Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)