Class Description: In the 21st century, we have more information at our fingertips that ever before, yet fewer and fewer of us know what to do with it. This course seeks to reverse that trend by helping students to acquire the skills needed to, "effectively identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments and truth claims". In so doing, students can, "discover and overcome personal prejudices, and biases; and [learn] to make reasonable, intelligent decisions about what to believe and what to do"(Bassham et al.). Thus, this course is about learning to thinking critical by employing the tools of logic and reason and learning how others use (and misuse) them as well.


Other Course Materials Required: Everything else is on site

Initial instructions for beginning of class: Have internet access, email, and a willingness to think

Testing regulations (included proctoring guidelines link): All tests and work are on line. Tests come with instructions.

Course Management System Information: must have internet connection

Student Learning Outcomes: 1. To assist students in developing the intellectual virtues characteristic of critical thinkers: courage, perseverance, and integrity of mind in addition to independent thinking and confidence in reason to list but a few. 2. To develop an appreciation of the importance of seeing issues from multiple, rather than singular, perspectives and thus learning to recognize the complexity of most social controversies in our communities. 3. To help students make more reasonable and rationally defensible choices in their lives. 4. To assist students in developing a habit of assessing and defending the reasonableness of their beliefs and values by coming to appreciate the usefulness and beauty of critical thinking in their public and private lives. 5. To be able to recognize arguments in the media and elsewhere and be able to assess the acceptability of the premises, their relevance to the conclusion, and the strength of their support of that conclusion in order to be a better person and citizen.

Useful Links: None required
Other: Just be willing to test your assumptions about thinking!

DSPS Information: Both C.O.C. and the government (Section 508) required that students with disabilities be granted appropriate accommodations. In order to secure these accommodations, inform the Instructor at the earliest opportunity. Steps will be taken to comply.