

## Course Syllabus

### **TU 104 Critical Thinking, Reading and Writing**

Semester 2/2020 (January 20 – May 19, 2021)

**Number of credits:** 3 credits (3-0-6)

**Lecture Time:** Thursdays, 14.00 – 17.00 hours

**Lecture Venue:** Online learning platform: MS Team

**Instructor:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Supong Tangkiengsirisin  
E-mail: [supong.t@litu.tu.ac.th](mailto:supong.t@litu.tu.ac.th)  
[supong\\_tu@yahoo.com](mailto:supong_tu@yahoo.com)

#### **Course Description:**

The ability to think critically is the foundation of all scholarship. This course is a broad introduction to the various methods of and interpretations of critical thinking with the goal of improving the analytical skills of the students. Areas of examination include logic and argumentation, rhetoric and debate, the scientific method, the psychology of critical thinking, and techniques of marketing and advertising.

#### **Course Objective:**

To aid students in the development of skills to improve their critical thinking, or their ability to analyze and evaluate truth claims.

Special emphasis will be placed on four skills:

- 1) The ability to think independently and form your own opinions;
- 2) The ability to question and evaluate your own opinions and beliefs, regardless of where those beliefs came from;
- 3) The ability to make clear and logical arguments supported by reasons and evidence in both written and spoken form;
- 4) The ability to critically analyze arguments and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, both in terms of logic and supporting evidence.

#### **Grading:**

Attendance and Participation	10%
Assignments and Classwork	30%
Presentations and Projects	40%
Final Interview	<u>20%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

**Syllabus:**

No.	Hrs.	Topic
1	3	Course Overview “What is Critical Thinking?” Basic concepts in critical thinking
2	3	Argumentation (samples of arguments)
3	3	The Art of Scientific Skepticism (viral videos, beliefs, superstitions) (1)
4	3	The Art of Scientific Skepticism (viral videos, beliefs, superstitions) (2)
5	3	Recognizing Underlying Assumptions
6	3	Ways of Reasoning
7	3	Arguing to Convince: Intro to Rhetoric and Debate
8	0	<i>Midterm period (no class)</i>
9	3	Student Debates
10	3	Evidence in Arguments Evaluating Evidence
11	3	Inferencing and Conclusion
12	3	Student Presentations
13	3	Psychology of Critical Thinking
14	3	Logical Fallacies
15	3	Project Presentations (1)
16	3	Project Presentations (2)

**Mid-Term Examination: Thursday, March 11, 2021: 15.00-17.00 hrs.**

**Final Examination: Thursday, May 20, 2021: 09.00-12.00 hrs.**

**Texts:**

There is no single main text for the course, but several lectures are based on excerpts from the following books:

Cottrell, Stella. Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument (Palgrave MacMillan: 2011).

Vesterman, William. Reading and Writing Short Arguments, Second Edition. (Mayfield Publishing Company: 1997 and 1994).

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR & HOLIDAY**  
**Semester 2/2020**  
**(January 20 – May 19, 2021)**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Period</b>
Classes Begin	January 20, 2021
Add-drop period	January 25 - 29, 2021
Tuition payment period	January 30 - February 2, 2021
<i>Makha Bucha Day*</i>	<i>February 26, 2021</i>
Mid-term Examination Period	March 10 - 16, 2021
Withdrawal period with "W" on record	March 24 - May 6, 2021
<i>Chakri Memorial Day*</i>	<i>April 6, 2021</i>
<i>Songkran Day Festival*</i>	<i>April 12 - 18, 2021</i>
<i>Substitution for Visakha Bucha Day*</i>	<i>April 26, 2021</i>
<i>Coronation Day*</i>	<i>May 4, 2021</i>
<i>Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day*</i>	<i>May 11, 2021</i>
Last day of class	Wed, May 19, 2021
Final exam period	May 20 - June 5, 2021
<i>Visakha Bucha Day*</i>	<i>May 26, 2021</i>
<i>Queen Suthida's Birthday*</i>	<i>June 3, 2021</i>

*\* Public Holiday, No classes during this period*