



# **B.E. International Program**

## **Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University**



---

### **Course Syllabus**

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

Semester 2/2021 (January 10 – May 7, 2022)

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

**Lecture Time:** Thursdays, 14.00 – 17.00 hrs.

**Lecture Venue:** Room 302, Faculty of Economics (Google Classroom Code: [eq4owwc](#))

**Instructor:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Supong Tangkiengsirisin E-mail: [supong@tu.ac.th](mailto:supong@tu.ac.th)

#### **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:**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Semester Project             | 30%        |
| Presentation                 | 25%        |
| Student Debate               | 20%        |
| Attendance and Participation | 10%        |
| Assignments and Classwork    | <u>15%</u> |
|                              | 100%       |

**Syllabus:**

| No. | Hrs. | Topic                                                                                               |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 3    | Course Overview<br>Student Expectations<br>“What is Critical Thinking?”<br>“What is Argumentation?” |
| 2   | 3    | Introduction to 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<br>Evaluating Evidence                                                        |
| 11  | 3    | Introduction to Consumer Awareness                                                                  |
| 12  | 3    | Consumer Awareness Student Presentations                                                            |
| 13  | 3    | Psychology of Critical Thinking                                                                     |
| 14  | 3    | Logical Fallacies                                                                                   |
| 15  | 3    | Fortuneteller Project Presentations (1)                                                             |
| 16  | 3    | Fortuneteller Project Presentations (2)<br>Fortuneteller Project Discussion<br>Course Wrap-up       |

**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).

**Remarks:**

- ♦ **Mid-Term Examination** (Thursday, March 3, 2022, 15.00 - 17.00 hrs.)
- ♦ **Final Examination** (Thursday, May 19, 2022, 09.00 - 12.00 hrs.)

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR & HOLIDAY SEMESTER 2/2021

| Semester 2/2021 (January 10 – May 7, 2022) |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Classes Begin                              | January 10, 2022                                                                       |
| Add-drop period                            | January 17 - 20, 2022<br><i>(from 9.00 AM of January 17 to 10.30 PM of January 20)</i> |
| Tuition Fee Payment Period                 | 7 December, 2021 - January 23, 2022<br><i>(9 AM - 10.30 PM)</i>                        |
| <i>Makha Bucha Day*</i>                    | <i>February 16, 2022</i>                                                               |
| Mid-term Examination Period                | February 28 - March 5, 2022                                                            |
| Withdrawal period with "W" on record       | March 14 - April 25, 2022<br><i>(from 9.00 AM of March 14 to 10.30 PM of April 25)</i> |
| <i>Chakri Memorial Day*</i>                | <i>April 6, 2022</i>                                                                   |
| <i>Songkran Festival Day*</i>              | <i>April 11 - 17, 2022</i>                                                             |
| <i>Coronation Day*</i>                     | <i>May 4, 2022</i>                                                                     |
| Last day of class for Semester 2/2021      | May 7, 2022                                                                            |
| Final exam period                          | May 9 - 12, 17 - 25, 2022                                                              |
| <i>Royal Ploughing Ceremony Day*</i>       | <i>May 13, 2022</i>                                                                    |
| <i>Visakha Bucha Day*</i>                  | <i>May 15, 2022</i>                                                                    |
| <i>Substitution for Visakha Bucha Day*</i> | <i>May 16, 2022</i>                                                                    |

Remark \* Holiday, No classes during this period