

PG Open Elective

CRITICAL THINKING AND WRITING

Course Code : 21 HST 802

Credits : 3 (2L+1T)

Objectives :The primary objectives of this course are :

1. To enable students / learners to understand the logical connections between ideas.
2. To help them to identify, construct and evaluate arguments.
3. To equip them to detect inconsistencies and common mistakes in reasoning.
4. To enable them to write analytically for academic purpose.

Syllabus :

1. Critical Thinking
 - a) Importance and process
 - b) Barriers to critical thinking
2. Argument
 - a) Difference between an argument and an opinion
 - b) Types of arguments
 - c) Valid patterns in arguments
3. Fallacies and Biases
 - a) Types of fallacies
 - b) Social influences on critical thinking
4. Developing critical thinking skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening
5. Constructing an academic argument
 - (a) The role of word choices in building arguments
 - (b) Hedging
 - (c) Using evidence to support claims
 - (d) Integrating evidence with comments
 - (e) Using quotations, paraphrase and summaries
 - (f) Avoiding plagiarism
6. Critical review

- a) Purpose and structure
- b) Writing a critical review
- 7. Characteristics of critical and analytical writing
- 8. Issue writing

Assessment:

Students' performance and progress will be evaluated through classwork sessionals, home-assignments, case studies, practice exercises, group activities, presentations, group discussions and term exams.

Suggested Reading and References:

1. Anderson, Marilyn. *Critical Reasoning, Academic Writing and Presentation Skills*. New Delhi: Pearson Education, 2010.
2. Booth, W., G.G. Colomb, J.M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
3. Cottrell, Stella. *The Study Skills Handbook*. London: Macmillan, 1990.
4. Gardner, Peter S. *New Directions: Reading Writing and Critical Thinking*. Cambridge Academic Writing Collection, 2005.
5. Mayfield, Marlys. *Thinking for Yourself : Developing Critical Thinking Skills through Reading and Writing*. Eighth Edition. Boston: Wadsworth. Cengage Learning, 2010.
6. Rossenwasser, David, Jill Stephen. *Writing Analytically*. Sixth Edition. Boston: Wadsworth. Cengage Learning, 2012.
7. Strunk, William, E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. Penguin Press, 2008.
8. Tharp, Twyla. *The Creative Habit: Learn it and Use it for Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.
9. Warburton, Nigel. *Thinking from A to Z*. Routledge Study Guide Series. Routledge, 2000.
10. Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. Fourth Edition. Indianapolis, Hackett Publishing Co., 2009.