
PSK 105 / 1 - Critical Thinking



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Tuesdays, 13:00-15:50, G-404 | www.baskent.edu.tr/~zuyen/courses/psk105.html



The Aim of the Course

We live in a world in which astrology, parapsychology, numerology and metaphysics are in demand; instead of astronomy, psychology, mathematics and physics. The primary aim of “Critical Thinking” course is to discuss the differences between science and pseudoscience. Another purpose of this course is to provide students the methods which are used for testing scientific and pseudoscientific arguments. At the end of this course students are expected to;

- Develop their critical thinking skills in the positive direction.
- Know how to differentiate science from pseudoscience and in the light of this knowledge be able to test the proposals presented as science.
- Develop a positive attitude towards science and scientific method.
- Be able to present one’s own feelings and thoughts in the systematic procedures of critical thinking.
- Develop skills to inquire about the current issues in his/her environment and increase ones level of awareness.
- Learn and apply the methods to analyze the daily arguments on different issues and be able to decipher the contradictions in these arguments.
- Use critical thinking practices in ones daily life.

This course is conducted through discussions on the material presented in class and over the compulsory reading material. With this aim in mind, (a) regular lectures supported by visual presentations and (b) class discussions are used. These class discussions are designed in such a way to help students develop critical thinking skills and apply the different psychological perspectives to the material being presented.

Hope to enjoy your journey... ☺

“Fortune favors the prepared mind.” Louis Pasteur

Course Materials

Ruggiero, V. R. (2011). *Beyond feelings: A guide to critical thinking* (9th Ed.). NY: Mc-Graw Hill.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an exam, paper, or projects; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university.

Evaluation of Student Performance and Grading

Source	Percentage
Pop Quizzes	20
Midterm Exam	40
Final Exam	40
Total	100

Pop Quizzes: The number of pop quizzes are uncertain. Since they are designed to keep students awake about the course topics, you have to be prepared in advance. There will be no make-ups for these quizzes.

Midterm Exam: It is a combination of multiple choice and fill in the blanks examination about the topics discussed in the class sessions and the textbook.

Final Exam: Students will have a comprehensive final exam including questions which are aimed to integrate given materials and to produce new ideas. The final exam will grasp the topics discussed in the whole semester.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
#1	26/09/2017	ORY100 - Orientation Program
#2	03/10/2017	Introducing Critical Thinking Who are You?
#3	10/10/2017	What is Critical Thinking?
#4	17/10/2017	What is Truth? What Does It Mean to Know?
#5	24/10/2017	How Good Are Your Opinions?
#6	31/10/2017	What is Evidence? What is Argument?
#7	07/11/2017	The Basic Problem: "Mine is Better"
#8	14/11/2017	*** Midterm Exam ***
#9	21/11/2017	Errors of Perspective Errors of Procedure
#10	28/11/2017	*** 2nd Social Psychology Congress ***
#11	05/12/2017	Errors of Expression Errors of Expression
#12	12/12/2017	Errors of Reaction The Errors in Combination
#13	19/12/2017	Knowing Yourself Being Observant
#14	26/12/2017	Selecting an Issue Conducting Inquiry