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Fall 9-1-2005

### COM 210E.01: Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving

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**UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Prepared by T. Stanton

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** U 210E: Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving

**REVISED:** August 2005

**PREREQUISITES:** COM 101T: English Composition or consent of instructor.

\*\*\*Note: If you do not have the prerequisite or consent of instructor, you may be asked to leave the class.\*\*\*

**INSTRUCTOR NAME, E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OFFICE LOCATION, OFFICE HOURS:** Thomas H. Stanton, Tom.Stanton@umontana.edu, (406) 243-7850, Business Administration Building, East Campus, Office hours by appointment or see schedule on office door.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course will provide an introduction to critical thinking, conflict analysis and problem solving with an examination of the fundamentals of each process and an evaluation of ethical considerations for each projected result. Additionally, the course will provide a frame work for determining decision making scope as well as provide basic formulae for conscious resolution strategies.

**Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:** Recognize situations requiring conscious decision making, analyze the scope and potential impact of the possible resolutions and apply an elemental, step by step approach to effectuate the desired conclusion.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of every class. All students are expected to attend every class unless excused by the instructor prior to class.

**OTHER POLICIES:** Make up tests or quizzes will not be given unless the instructor is contacted at least one hour prior to the scheduled test or quiz. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor either in person or in writing regarding an anticipated missed test, quiz or late paper.

If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor to discuss the matter prior to any situation giving rise to the special consideration requested.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- 1. Becoming a Critical Thinker**, third edition, Vincent Ryan Ruggiero
- 2. Philosophy through the Ages** by Joan A. Price

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:** As announced and/or distributed by the instructor.

**SUPPLIES:** pen, paper, 3 ring binder, floppy disk, brain.

### **Critical Thinking, Analysis and Problem Solving Calendar**

**Meeting Times:** Monday and Wednesday 11:10 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** AD 11

#### **Week 1**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 1: The Pre-Socratics: Early Greek Philosophers  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 1: Mastering the Fundamentals

#### **Week 2**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 2: Socrates and the Sophists  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 1: Mastering the Fundamentals  
Note: No class Monday: Labor Day.

#### **Week 3**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 3: Plato  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 2: Becoming an Individual  
Note: No class Monday

#### **Week 4**

Material to be covered: (Continued Discussion)

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 3: Plato

#### **Week 5**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 4: Aristotle  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 2: Becoming an Individual

#### **Week 6**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 5: Hellenistic Philosophy  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

### **Week 7**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 6: The Medieval World  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

Note: Instructor absence Monday. Class will be held on Wednesday.

### **Week 8**

Review for Mid-Term Examination

Mid-term Examination

### **Week 9**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 7: Modern Philosophy: The Reformation, Science, and Rationalism

*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 4: Solving Problems

### **Week 10**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 8: British Empiricism: Locke, Berkeley, and Hume  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 5: Recognizing Errors in Thinking

### **Week 11**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 9: Immanuel Kant: Critical Philosophy  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 5: Recognizing Errors in Thinking

### **Week 12**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 10: Idealism and Materialism: Hegel and Marx  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking

### **Week 13**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 11: Utilitarianism: Wollstonecraft, Bentham, Mill, Taylor

*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking

Note: No class Wednesday: Thanksgiving Holiday Travel Day.

### **Week 14**

Material to be covered:

*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 12: Individualism: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Rand  
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 7: Expressing Ideas Persuasively

### **Week 15**

Work on final revisions to final papers.

**Grading Content:** Students will be graded on periodic papers and chapter quizzes. The instructor will set the schedule for due dates in the first week of class.

#### **Grading Scale:**

A: 100-90%

B: 89-80%

C: 79-70%

D: 69-60%

F: below 60%