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

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT STATEMENT: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321.

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

REVISED: August 2006

PREREQUISITES: COM 101, WTS 101, COM 115, WTS 115 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, AD11H, 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 framework 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 may 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,
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:
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 11:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
Meeting Place: AD 11

Suggested Schedule
Note: The instructor reserves the right to amend this schedule at anytime. You must come to class to know exactly where in the schedule we will be.

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
“Muffins” discussion

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
“Muffins” assignment due
*Monday, September 4; Holiday-Labor Day

Week 3
Material to be covered:
Philosophy through the Ages, Chapter 3: Plato
Becoming a Critical Thinker, Chapter 2: Becoming an Individual

Week 4
Discussion of “Muffins” paper and essay writing.
Week 5
Material to be covered: (Continued Discussion)
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 3: Plato

**Paper #1 Due**

Week 6
Material to be covered: (Continued Discussion)
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 3: Plato

Week 7
Material to be covered:
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 4: Aristotle
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

*Monday, Tuesday: October 9, 10- Instructor Absence*

Week 8
Material to be covered:
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 5: Hellenistic Philosophy
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 3: Evaluating Arguments

**Paper #2 Due**

Week 9
Material to be covered:
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 6: The Medieval World
*Becoming a Critical Thinker*, Chapter 4: Solving Problems

Week 10
Material to be covered:
*Philosophy through the Ages*, Chapter 7: Modern Philosophy
*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

**Paper #3 due**
Tuesday, November 7-Holiday: Election Day
Week 12
Material to be covered:
Ethical Dilemma Hypotheticals
_Becoming a Critical Thinker_, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking

Week 13
Material to be covered:
_Becoming a Critical Thinker_, Chapter 6: Applying Critical Thinking
*Wednesday, Thursday; November 22,23-Holiday: Thanksgiving

Week 14
Material to be covered:
Ethical Dilemma Hypotheticals
_Becoming a Critical Thinker_, Chapter 7: Expressing Ideas Persuasively
Paper #4 due

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%