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Fall 9-1-2006

COM 210E.02: Critical Thinking, Analysis, and Problem Solving

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Recommended Citation

Stanton, Thomas, "COM 210E.02: Critical Thinking, Analysis, and Problem Solving" (2006). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 10597.

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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/VP/SA/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 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 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,

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: Tuesday and Thursday, 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%