

UNI 102 Critical Thinking – Fall 2016

Course description: The main objective of this course is to establish a well-articulated understanding of critical thinking skills. These skills play a crucial role in every day life reasoning and scientific methodology, not to mention their significance in constructing philosophical arguments. At the end of the course you're expected to

1. analyze arguments into premises and conclusions
2. evaluate deductive arguments for validity and soundness
3. evaluate inductive arguments for strength

Consequently, you will become a person who does not just *state* opinions and beliefs but is also capable of defending them effectively in all areas of life.

All registered students of UNI 102 are expected to know and be aware of rules of academic honesty and violation of academic honesty, falsification, plagiarism, complicity of falsification or plagiarism, procedures and processes under İstanbul Şehir University Instruction for Ethics Committees part nine, articles 34-40. (available in both English and Turkish)

<http://www.sehir.edu.tr/Pages/Akademik/YonetmelikveYonergeler/YonetmelikveYonergeler.aspx?PageID=3&MenuID=1676>

Textbook: *The Power of Logic* by Frances Howard-Snyder, Daniel Howard-Snyder, Ryan Wasserman, 5th edition, McGraw Hill, NY, 2013. This is the book I am following. It is on reserve in the library. Question sets from the book will be given in the discussions. You are not obliged to purchase the book but if you wish to have it, you can get the e-book from the bookstore. It usually takes about a week to have the password/username information ready. **Supplementary source:** *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* by Merrilee H. Salmon, 6th edition, Wadsworth. (also on reserve in the library)

Grading: Midterm 30% Final 30% Assignments 35% Lecture attendance 5%

Add-drop dates: Oct. 3rd – Oct. 6th

Midterm date: Nov. 7-11 week. The day to be announced.

Withdrawal deadline: Nov. 25th

Assignment dates:

1st assignment due Oct. 21

2nd assignment due Nov. 18th

3rd assignment due Dec. 16th

All assignments are submitted to the assistants on Fridays during discussions as hard copies (either as a print-out or in handwriting). If you choose to submit it in handwriting, make sure that it is easy to read). No assignments will be accepted after the deadline. When assignments are graded, they will be given back to you in the discussion sessions. You must submit at least 2 out of 3 assignments in order to be eligible to take the final. Otherwise your grade results in an IA.

Objections to assignment grades:

If you have an objection to the assignment grade, you have two weeks (starting from the day they are given back) to see me. All objections are to be discussed with me and NOT the assistants during my office hour. After two weeks, you lose the right to an objection.

Discussions and Discussion Attendance:

To be eligible for taking the midterm you must attend at least 4 discussions.

To be eligible for taking the final you must attend at least 4 after the midterm until the end of the term.

If these requirements are not fulfilled you get IA and thereby fail the course. You must attend the discussion session that you are registered to and not any other discussion.

Lecture attendance:

Lecture attendance constitutes 5% of the grade. Absence from lectures alone does not result in an F. However absence from discussions may result in an F. (Please see “Discussions and Discussion attendance” above)

Excused absences:

If you have relevant documentation regarding an excused absence, please share this with the assistant.

Other important issues: If you have any questions, or anything you want to inform me about, discuss with me etc. please come to my office and see me. Do NOT rely on emails. Do NOT try to communicate important information right after the class while I am leaving. I may forget it. To ensure efficient communication, please visit me in my office.

In addition, I use LMS to upload lecture slides, assignments, assignment answer keys and to send messages. Please learn how to use it.

Office hours: To be announced. My office is on the west campus, room 1019.