

Course Title	Introduction to Critical Thinking				
Course Code	ENG 279				
Course Type	Compulsory				
Level	Undergraduate				
Year / Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> year / 3d semester				
Teacher's Name	Evi Haggipavlu				
ECTS	5	Lectures / week	2	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>This course aims at helping students acquire the analytic, critical and reflective skills necessary for their development as discriminating readers and effective writers. Through the careful analysis of a wide range of texts (journalistic, scientific, philosophical, literary) and cultural artifacts (photographs, videos, films, artworks) the students will learn the basics of inductive and deductive reasoning and will develop the ability to select and evaluate information, analyze genre, style and tone, interpret and engage with ideas, draw informed conclusions and formulate persuasive arguments.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the basic rules of logic and the limits of logic.</li> <li>• Explore the relationship between Knowledge and Truth.</li> <li>• Explore the relationship between Ethics, Difference and Politics.</li> <li>• Examine a variety of critical ethical perspectives on Nature and the Environment, Animals, and Cinema and the Arts.</li> <li>• Use the various skills learned for reading, thinking and writing critically.</li> </ul>				
Prerequisites	N/A	Required	N/A		
Course Content	<p><u>A. Thinking Critically About Criticism and the Limits of Logic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning to think in terms of Questions</li> <li>• Negative and Positive Criticism; Some Basic Rules of Logic; Inductive and Deductive Arguments; Common Logical Fallacies and Inconsistencies; and Untested Presuppositions.</li> <li>• Plato on the Theory of Forms and the Allegory of the Cave</li> </ul> <p><u>B. Thinking Critically about Knowledge...a Question of Truth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renee Descartes' Radical Skepticism</li> <li>• David Hume's Radical Empiricism</li> </ul> <p><u>C. Thinking Critically about Ethics and Difference...a Question of Politics?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plato On Morality</li> <li>• Audre Lorde on Criticism</li> </ul>				

	<p><u>D. Thinking Critically about Nature, Environmental Issues, Animals and Cinema...a Question of Conscience</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Racism</li> <li>• Eco-Feminism</li> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Agnes Varda's <i>The Gleaner's &amp; I</i> (France, 2000)</li> </ul>
Teaching Methodology	Each of the class meetings will be comprised of a lecture and discussion of the week's topic, readings and films. Group Presentations and assignments will allow students to combine their creative and critical skills.
Bibliography	<p>Plato. <i>Republic</i>. In <i>Collected Dialogues</i>. Edited by Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Translated by Paul Shorey, Princeton University Press, 1996, 575-844.</p> <p>Sample, Ruth J., Charles W. Mills and James P. Sterba editors. <i>Philosophy: The Big Questions</i>. Blackwell Publishing, 2004</p>
Assessment	In-Class Assignments, Midterm Examination, Final Examination
Language	English