



AIMS

The course is designed to take students from many backgrounds and language settings and give them the skills necessary to successfully study a range of subjects at an Australian university. Critical thinking specifically addresses learning areas to assist students who have had little exposure to western style education and whose first language is not English. To this end, students are taught concepts and methodologies that promote the development of independent analytical thinking skills via lecture listening, note taking and interactive tutorial style classes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this subject students should be able to:

- Identify and use the skills of argument and reasoning.
- Clearly communicate arguments and positions.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses and fallacies in arguments.
- Diagram arguments and plan essays.
- Assess and evaluate sources for argumentative credibility.
- Obtain, critically analyse and evaluate information from a variety of sources.
- Develop an understanding of deductive arguments and inductive arguments.
- Develop an understanding of inference to the best explanation.
- Write and present information to meet a range of academic requirements.
- Systematically plan and produce a capstone research project.

PREREQUISITES AND ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE

There are no prerequisites or assumed knowledge for this subject.

SUBJECT CONTENT

WEEK	TOPIC AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE
1	Orientation week
2 - 8	Argument parts, categorical reasoning and Venn diagrams
9 - 11	Propositional reasoning and truth tables
12 - 13	Soundness and CE by scenario
14	Types of writing
15 - 16	Argument mapping
17	Review test
18 - 19	Exams
20	Applied critical thinking
21 - 23	Metacognition
24 - 26	Induction and scientific reasoning
29	Inference to the best explanation
30	Report planning and writing
31 - 36	Research project
37 - 39	Revision
40	Graduation



ASSESSMENT

General weightings for each assessment item are outlined below.

ASSESSMENT ITEM	WEIGHTING
Semester 1	
Test 1 argument parts	2%
Test 2 categorical arguments	6%
Test 3 Venn diagrams	7%
Test 4 truth tables	7%
Test 5 soundness and CE by scenario	7%
Test 6 argument maps	7%
Test 7 review	9%
Attendance and effort	5%
Semester 2	
Metacognition assignment	5%
Test 8 induction test	8%
Test 9 IBE	9%
Project presentation	2%
Project report	12%
Test 10 review	9%
Attendance and effort	5%