



# Critical Thinking

## Foundation Studies Program

### 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 both verbally and in writing.
- Identify argument forms and assess them for validity.
- Recognise common fallacies in arguments.
- Create and diagram arguments.
- Apply critical thinking skills to other subjects (especially EAP).
- Obtain, critically analyse and evaluate information from a variety of sources.
- Understand scientific method.
- Evaluate inductive arguments including generalisations, analogies and causal claims.
- Understand inference to the best explanation.
- Discuss issues of local and global importance.
- Self-reflect on own learning habits.
- Write and present information to meet a range of academic requirements.

### Subject content

WEEK	TOPIC AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE
1	Orientation week
2 - 4	Argument parts, argument forms and validity
5 - 10	Categorical reasoning and Venn diagrams
11 - 15	Propositional reasoning and truth tables
16	Soundness and counter-example by scenario
17	Revision
18 - 19	Exams
20	Argument parts
21 - 24	Argument mapping
25 - 27	Metacognition
28 - 29	Fallacies
30 - 33	Induction and scientific reasoning
34 - 36	Inference to the best explanation
37	Revision
38 - 39	SWOTVAC/Exams
40	Graduation

### Prerequisites and assumed knowledge

There are no prerequisites or assumed knowledge for this subject.

### Assessment

General weightings for each assessment item are outlined below.

ASSESSMENT ITEM	WEIGHTING
<b>Semester 1</b>	
Test 1: Argument parts	2%
Test 2: Categorical arguments	6%
Test 3: Venn diagrams	8%
Test 4: Truth tables	8%
Test 5: Soundness and CE by scenario	8%
Test 6: Review test/exam	8%
Applied Thinking Program	4%
Participation	5%
<b>Semester 2</b>	
Test 7 Mapping	8%
Metacognition assignment	8%
Test 8: Induction test	8%
Test 9: IBE	8%
Test 10: Review test	8%
Applied Thinking Program	6%
Participation	5%

### Further enquiries

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