

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: CRITICAL THINKING**TERM:** F **YEAR:** 20119 (Sep-Dec 2011)**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Pamela J. Reeve**REGISTRATION:** Limited to _____ Unlimited _____**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A systematic introduction to critical thinking: identification and evaluation of arguments and explanations; criteria for assessing the soundness of claims based on personal experience and expertise; dealing with inconsistencies and conflicting claims; identifying hidden premises and conclusions; evaluation of the results of surveys and opinion polls; identifying factors that impede critical thinking such as bias, emotion, persuasive strategies, and irrelevance. Deductive and inductive reasoning are covered as well as inference to the best explanation.

COURSE OUTCOMES OR OBJECTIVES:

The aim of the course is practical: to acquire and hone a skill-set that will support students in their academic reading, research, and writing as well as dealing with various kinds of information and claims encountered in daily life. Through regular exercises, the course will facilitate the systematic development of the power of critical thinking and the capacity for reasoned judgments. Students will become familiar with different modalities of inference: inductive, deductive, analogical, causal and explanatory.

PREREQUISITES: None.**REQUIRED TEXT:**

The Power of Critical Thinking, Second Canadian Edition, Lewis Vaughn & Chris MacDonald (Oxford University Press, 2010). Information about the text is available at the following link:

<http://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780195431223.html>

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

10 homework assignments (70%); Final exam (30%)