

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

COH 111 Critical Thinking
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014
Tues/Thurs 2:00-2:50pm
Location: PAC 112

Instructor: Kelly D. Switzer, MFA

Office Location: PAC 130

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-noon, every other Friday 11-noon, and by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5319

University Email Address: Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook

Keys to Success Quick, Carol Carter, Joyce Bishop, Sarah Lyman Kravits. ISBN: 978-0-13-254171-8

Other readings will be supplied by the instructor.

Materials

A 3-ring binder devoted to this class
Pencils and pens and a way to store them
A package of paper
A package of dividers
Resume paper
A set of highlighters

Course Description: This course introduces students to theories of learning and critical thinking and provides a learning framework to apply them to their college and life experiences. Concepts studies include research and theory on how people learn, critical thinking, problem solving, perception, learning styles, memory, creativity, and how attitudes and values affect the learning and thinking processes. The course also shows students how to apply these theories and research findings to help develop practical skills in critical thinking, time management, reading, note taking, testing taking, other areas that will help them be more successful students and lifelong learners.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion, the student will:

1. Have a better understanding of college culture and expectations.
2. Be able to better manage time and money.
3. Acquired note-taking, listening, and study habits.
4. Acquired test-taking strategies.
5. Be aware of the diversity on campus and will have been informed about important subjects such as conflict, abuse, rape, wellness, and stress management.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading

Binder Prep	10
Skill Building page 13, Create and Practice	10
Three Day Calendar	10
Skill Building page 44	10
Key 4.7 on page 59	10
Library Scavenger Hunt	10
Credible Sources Activity	10
Improved Notes	10
Think Practically page 116	10
Think Practically page 156	10
Chapter 3 Test	50
Chapter 4 Test	50
Chapter 5 Test	50
Chapter 8 Test	50

Total: 300

Exceptional work will warrant an	A=90% (270-300)
Above average work will warrant a	B=80% (240-270)
Average work will warrant a	C=70% (210-239)
Below average work will warrant a	D=60% (180-209)
Unacceptable work will warrant a	F=59% or less (<179)

Extra Credit

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class and on eCollege.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to check their myLeo accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will also need to access eCollege regularly for readings and assignment instructions.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be enhanced by using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus. If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support. Their information is below:

eCollege Student Technical Support (QM 6.6, 7.1) Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

- Please do not be late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and supply me with your excuse AFTER class. If you do not see me after class, it is very likely that you will be marked absent.
- I do not allow makeup work. If you don't have your assignment ready at the top of class, you will receive a 0.
- This includes tests.
- Yes. I'm serious. This is tough love—in this class you will meet all deadlines, no ifs/ands/buts. This may require planning ahead for exigencies.
- **BRING YOUR BOOK EVERY DAY.**
- Absences: you are allowed two (2) absences without a penalty. For each subsequent absence your grade will drop by one full letter. The only excused absences are emergency medical, and you must have documentation to be excused. (But still: no makeup work.)
- No ballcaps or hats are to be worn in class, except for verifiable religious reasons.
- Am I being hard? Yes. Anyone care to guess why?

University Specific Procedures:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Gee Library

Room 132

Fax (903) 468-8148

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: "Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a

manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.”

The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here:
<http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honest, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

- (1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.
- (3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
- (4) Loss of privileges.
 - a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
 - b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
 - c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
 - d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
 - e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
- (5) Admonition and warning.
- (6) Notification of parents.
- (7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Tues. Aug. 26	Go over syllabus, break at 2:30 to attend Theatre Majors/Minors Meeting in PAC 100
Thurs. Aug. 28	Chapter 1: Welcome to College, Homework: Skill Building on page 13, turn in Create and Practice next time (10 pts) Binder preparation in class (10 pts), discuss eCollege
Tues. Sept. 2	QEP Lab Work Ed South Lab 125 Chapter 1: Welcome to College, Think Practically activity on page 11 Homework: Skill Building on page 13, turn in Create and Practice next time (10 pts)
Thurs. Sept. 4	Chapter 2: Goals and Time, Quick Check in class
Tues. Sept. 9	ePortfolio Lab Work Ed South Lab 125

- Thurs. Sept. 11 Goals activity in class, begin a Three Day Calendar and chart your time Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, to turn in Tuesday the 25th;
Think Practically activity on page 24
- Tues. Sept. 16 Chapter 6: Listening and Note Taking
- Thurs. Sept. 18 Turn in Three Day Calendar (10 pts); Note Taking activity in class
- Tues. Sept. 23 Chapter 3: Learning How You Learn, take the Multiple Pathways to Learning activity on page 34 and score on 35
- Thurs. Sept. 25 Discussion: Test Prep
Homework: Skill Building on page 44 (10 pts), turn in next time
- Tues. Sept. 30 Chapter 3: Test (50 pts)
- Thurs. Oct. 2 Chapter 4: Critical, Creative, and Practical Thinking
- Tues. Oct. 7 What is Plagiarism?
Key 4.5 on page 56 (10 pts), in class Problem Analysis
Homework: Key 4.7 page 49 (10 pts)
- Thurs. Oct. 9 Chapter 4 Test (50 pts)
- Tues. Oct. 14 Chapter 5: Reading and Information Literacy. SQ3R
- Thurs. Oct. 16 Library Tour
Homework: fill out Library Scavenger Hunt (10 pts)
- Tues. Oct. 21 Key 5.7 on page 74, Credibility activity in class
Homework: Credible Sources Activity (10 pts)
- Thurs. Oct. 23 Review Credible Sources Activity
- Tues. Oct. 28 Chapter 5 Test (50 pts)
- Thurs. Oct. 30 Chapter 7: Memory and Studying
- Tues. Nov. 4 Review previous notes and improve in class,
Homework: turn in Improved Notes (10 pts)
- Thurs. Nov. 6 Chapter 8: Test Taking
- Tues. Nov. 11 Chapter 8 continued
Homework: Think Practically page 116 (10 pts)
- Thurs. Nov. 13 Chapter 8 Test (50 pts)
- Tues. Nov. 18 Chapter 9: Diversity and Communication

Thurs. Nov. 20 Chapter 10: Wellness and Stress Management

Tues. Nov. 25 Tour of gym/and or The Counseling Center

Thurs. Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Tues. Dec. 2 Chapter 11: Managing Money
Homework: Think Practically page 156 (120 pts)

Thurs. Dec. 4 Resume Workshop: Scholarships vs. Work

Final Exam: TBA

updated: 8/19/2014