



ORGL 111 Critical Thinking

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2018

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Molly H. Baur

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 6-7 p.m. or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5064

Office Fax: 903-886-588

University Email Address: Molly.Baur@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking by Matthew J. Van Cleave

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-rkbctcWjo3OFhGODNSYTZPMVU/view>
copy and paste the above link into your search engine.

Software Required

This is an online course and the following technological resources are required:

- Computer/Internet access and connection: high-speed preferred (not dial up)
- Speakers - so you can hear audio enhanced assignments throughout the semester
- Microsoft Word

Optional Texts and/or Materials: none

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

ORGL 111 - Critical Thinking

Hours: 3

Critical thinking is a necessary skill for anyone to be able to problem solve including making clear decisions and conclusions. This course dissects the components of arguments and helps students interpret them based on their own perspectives. The students are introduced to the processes of logical reasoning to interpret arguments and learn how to evaluate the quality of reasoning behind arguments, interpretations, and/or beliefs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Competency: This course will provide information on how to examine complex issues and ideas and to identify good and bad reasoning in a variety of fields with differing assumptions, contents and methods. This will allow the ability to employ a critical thinking process to evaluate a complex problem.

Introduction

Critical thinking is a necessary skill for anyone to be able to problem solve, including making clear decisions and conclusions. This course dissects the components of arguments and helps you to interpret them based on your perspectives. You are introduced to the processes of logical reasoning to interpret arguments and learn how to evaluate the quality of reasoning behind arguments, interpretations, and/or beliefs.

The information in this course includes how a well-reasoned argument is created and how to determine the mode(s) of inquiry used to gather and generate information. You learn to interpret evidence and findings, especially alternative positions different from yours, formulate significant questions for exploration, and recognize your biases by viewing an issue through multiple perspectives. The lessons also teach you how to employ focus, organization, discipline, and empathy in approaching complex problems in order to evaluate your position or conclusions through reflective thinking.

Throughout the course, you engage in a variety of multimedia materials, presentations, individual exercises, as well as collaborative conversations to enable you to describe the concepts essential to the comprehension, analysis, and creation of arguments culminating in the development of reasonable strategies for belief formation.

Welcome to the course! I am delighted to have you on this learning journey and look forward to your active participation in the course. The exercises are intended to engage you with the information for content mastery. Be sure to read the syllabus for specific information related to this course.

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Minimal Technical Skills Needed

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Chrome and Mozilla Firefox

Assessments

Pretest

The Pretest for this Supervision course assesses your knowledge of Effective Supervisor's Competencies & Skills, Contemporary Workplace Considerations, Goal-setting & Organizational Skills, Staffing, Recruiting & Retention Strategy, Control Process Strategy, Decision-making Strategy, Motivational Leadership, Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution Strategies, Group- and Team-building Skills, the Performance Appraisal Process, and the Supervisor's Role in Bargaining Process.

The purpose of the pretest is to provide a baseline understanding of your knowledge in this competency. The pretest is required for the course. The grade on the pretest does not count in the final grade.

Content	Description	Time	Value	Notes
Pretest	Measures your competency of learning outcomes through essays, short answer, and multiple choice questions.	120 minutes	100 points	

Posttest

The Posttest for this Supervision course assesses your knowledge of Effective Supervisor's Competencies & Skills, Contemporary Workplace Considerations, Goal-setting & Organizational Skills, Staffing, Recruiting & Retention Strategy, Control Process Strategy,

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Decision-making Strategy, Motivational Leadership, Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution Strategies, Group- and Team-building Skills, the Performance Appraisal Process, and the Supervisor's Role in Bargaining Process.

The Posttest is an assessment of your knowledge of the material required for the competency. A score of 80 points or higher is required to demonstrate competency.

If you score less than 80 points on the posttest you will have an opportunity to review the material and re-take the second Posttest. You may take the Posttest assessment up to three times. If you have not passed the competency in three attempts, you will need to repeat the course. In order to demonstrate competency, a score of 80 points or higher is required.

Content	Description	Time	Value	Notes
Posttest	Measures your competency of learning outcomes through essay, short answer, and multiple choice questions.	180 minutes	100 points	

Exercises

Some of the Learning Outcomes have Exercises, you need to do them during your time in the class. Responses are not merely a restatement of information or ideas already presented. You are expected to present new ideas for consideration, pose questions to explore a topic deeper, and/or add to perspectives presented. You will need to put them all into one word document and e-mail it to me when you have them all done. This grade will be averaged with your posttest grade to determine your grade in the class.

Content	Description	Time	Value	Notes
Discussion	Measures your competency of learning outcomes through essay, short answers.	Not timed	100 points	See instructions above

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Complete the pretest as soon as you have access to the course. The grade for the pretest is not included in your final grade. The pretest is designed to give you an idea of what information you may already be familiar with that will be covered in the class.

Do not wait until the final week of class to begin. Pace yourself.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Pretest – Grade not counted

Posttest – Worth 100 points must make a minimum of 80 points to pass

Learning Outcome Exercises – Worth 100 points this grade will be averaged with the posttest grade

to determine final grade. Final Grade must be a grade of 80 or above.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.

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- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:

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- 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
- Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

University e-mail is the preferred form of communication, please e-mail me through your myLEO e-mail and not your personal e-mail. Feel free to ask questions as they arise as you navigate the course.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

You have 7 weeks to complete this course, no late submissions will be allowed.

Access and Navigation

This course will be facilitated using D2L, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go

to: <https://leoportal.tamuc.edu/uPortal/f/welcome/normal/render.uP>

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@tamcommerce.edu.

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D2L Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of D2L. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. helpdesk@tamuc.edu or 903-468-6000.

Course Concerns

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email.

Other Questions/Concerns

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department related to your questions/concerns. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.)

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have

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been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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