

# Dakota County Technical College

## PHIL 1200: Critical Thinking

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

In this course, students will develop skills in argument evaluation, the use of informal logic, and language analysis as they criticize problems found on the World Wide Web, in the workplace, and in other everyday environments. Students will also have an opportunity to explore topics in media literacy and the philosophy of science. Suggested Accuplacer reading cut score over 78.

Meets MnTC Goal 2.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/27/2007 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Barriers
2. Basic logical concepts
3. Critical thinking for the media
4. Evaluating arguments and truth claims
5. Finding, evaluating, and using sources
6. Logical fallacies
7. Science and pseudoscience
8. Standards

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. describe critical thinking standards, benefits, and barriers
2. determine and evaluate premises and conclusions of arguments
3. analyze problems involving fallacies of relevance
4. analyze problems involving fallacies of insufficient evidence
5. diagram and summarize arguments
6. evaluate arguments for whether they are good and whether it is reasonable to accept their premises
7. apply the rules of inductive reasoning to a variety of problems
8. create and support their own formal arguments with explanations
9. use the writing process
10. recognize and analyze problems found in the media
11. describe and analyze problems found in science and pseudoscience
12. Summarize arguments

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted