

Critical Thinking: An Online Course

Online course learning objectives

This course equips students with the skills and habits of critical thinking. It teaches practical techniques for confident, discerning critical engagement with sources, evidence, arguments and reasoning.

This course will help learners to:

- Build key reasoning, argument and analysis skills.
- Boost writing, essay and exam results.
- Improve work, planning and research habits.
- Learn key skills sought by graduate recruiters.
- Learn digital and information literacy.

Language: English

Time to complete: 10 hours

Instructor: Dr. Tom Chatfield

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: WHY BOTHER THINKING TWICE?

This module will help you to understand:

- What it means to think critically
- Why objectivity and skepticism are important
- How speed can affect the quality of your thinking

MODULE TWO: WHAT'S THE POINT OF ARGUMENTS?

This module will help you to understand:

- How to spot an argument
- How to set out an argument clearly
- How to challenge peoples' assumptions

MODULE THREE: HOW CAN I ARGUE MY CASE?

This module will help you to understand:

- What it means to make logical arguments
- How to reason about what's likely and use probability
- How to handle evidence effectively

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MODULE FOUR: WHAT'S THE BEST EXPLANATION?

This module will help you to understand:

- What makes a good explanation
- How to develop explanations in practice
- How researchers test explanations

MODULE FIVE: WHY WE GET THINGS WRONG

This module will help you to understand:

- How to identify rhetoric and its persuasive effects
- How to spot bad arguments and avoid falling for them
- How to identify biased thinking

MODULE SIX: HANDLING INFORMATION OVERLOAD

This module will help you to:

- Understand the relationship between data, information, and knowledge
- Practice techniques for search and discovery
- Create your personal digital literacy plan