

Critical Thinking and Informal Logic - Course Study Sheet

Course: Critical Thinking and Informal Logic Cluster: Humanities, Writing, and Communication

Studies arguments, definitions, evidence, assumptions, fallacies, causal claims, and decision reasoning.

Five-module course map

Module	Active evidence to produce
1. argument structure	Explain the central idea, complete an application, diagnose one plausible error, and connect it to the next module.
2. definitions and ambiguity	Explain the central idea, complete an application, diagnose one plausible error, and connect it to the next module.
3. inductive strength	Explain the central idea, complete an application, diagnose one plausible error, and connect it to the next module.
4. causal reasoning	Explain the central idea, complete an application, diagnose one plausible error, and connect it to the next module.
5. bias and fallacies	Explain the central idea, complete an application, diagnose one plausible error, and connect it to the next module.

Reliable learning method

state the claim, map reasons and assumptions, evaluate source and inference, consider alternatives, and calibrate the conclusion

Representative application

Audit a causal claim by testing timing, mechanism, comparison, confounding, selection, and plausible alternative explanations.

Weekly study cycle

1. Preview the objective and write two questions. 2. Attend or engage and capture decisions rather than every sentence. 3. Reconstruct the main idea within 24 hours. 4. Complete independent practice. 5. Analyze the first unsupported move on each error. 6. Use feedback. 7. Schedule a delayed mixed recheck.

Self-check before moving on

Can you explain the idea without notes, complete a fresh task, detect a near-miss, verify the result, and state a limitation? Watch especially for: labeling an argument with a fallacy name instead of explaining exactly how the inference fails.

What to save

an argument map with claim, premises, assumptions, evidence appraisal, objections, and revised conclusion

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