

## Master Syllabus

All courses require a syllabus. Syllabi may be photocopied and/or posted on the class Blackboard Companion site. Faculty must review the course syllabus with students on the first day of class.



Keiser University  
General Education

**Course Prefix & Number:**

IDS3355

**Course Title:**

Critical Thinking

**Course Format:**

On-line, Face to Face

**Credit Hours:**

3.0 Semester Credit Hours

**Course Schedule:**

Online or **Face to Face**

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Co-requisites:**

None

**Faculty:**

Earned doctorate or master's degree in psychology, sociology, critical thinking or philosophy or master's degree with 18 graduate credit hours in subject taught.

**Office Hours:**

To be announced by Faculty

**Course Description:**

Focuses on the thinking process and provides students an opportunity to become more clear, insightful and creative thinkers through systematic study and guided practice. Topics include problem solving, perception, beliefs, language and thought, relationships and constructing arguments.

**Course Objectives/Outcomes:**

Upon completion of IDS3355, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics, benefits, and barriers of critical thinking and its benefits
2. Examine the roles of reason and emotion in critical thinking
3. Identify the different communication styles and how they are shaped
4. Describe how to evaluate evidence and avoid cognitive and perceptual errors

5. Identify fallacies and strategies to avoid them
6. Construct, analyze and evaluate arguments
7. Distinguish between inductive and deductive arguments
8. Discuss moral reasoning and its development
9. Identify marketing strategies and their impact on the consumer
10. Understand and critically analyze the influence of mass media
11. Evaluate scientific explanations and analyze experimental results

**Grading and Evaluation Methods:**

| Evaluation                                       | Percent of Total Grade | Due Date |
|--|------------------------|----------|
| Class Participation, Discussions, Group Projects | 20%                    |          |
| Weekly Assignments                               | 10%                    |          |
| Mid-term Exam                                    | 20%                    |          |
| Critical Article Review                          | 5%                     |          |
| Research Paper or Final Project                  | 20%                    |          |
| Final Exam                                       | 20%                    |          |
| <b>Post Test</b>                                 | <b>5%</b>              |          |
| <b>Total Points: 100</b>                         |                        |          |

**Grading Scale**

| Letter Grade | Numeric Grade |
|--------------|---------------|
| A            | 90.00-100.00% |
| B            | 80.00-89.99%  |
| C            | 70.00-79.99%  |
| D            | 65.00-69.99%  |
| F            | Up to 64.99%  |

**Required Textbook:**

Boss, Judith A. (2015). *Think: Critical Thinking for Everyday Life (4th ed.)*. New York, NY: McGraw Hill. ISBN 9781259690884.

**Topical Outline/Course Assignments/Calendar:**

**Week One:**

Learning Objective(s)- 1, 2, and 3  
Assigned Reading – Chapters 1-3

### Suggested Learning Activities

- Group activities to identify student values and ethics on controversial topics
- Have students identify a position or conclusion on a controversial topic and produce research to support their conclusion
- Have students randomly choose a controversial issue out of a bag and give a five-minute impromptu explanation providing support for that issue. Another student must give reasons opposing that issue

### Evaluation

- Pretest
- Chapter exercises/homework assignment

## **Week Two**

### Learning Objective(s)- 4-6

### Assigned Reading – Chapters 4-6

### Suggested Learning Activities

- Case studies
- Group evaluations of reasoning with claims
- Have students develop arguments and counterarguments

### Evaluation- Mid-term Examination

## **Week Three**

### Learning Objective(s)- 7 and 8

### Assigned Reading- Chapters 7-9

### Suggested Learning Activities

- Have students evaluate causal arguments
- Have students examine valid and invalid arguments
- Have students discuss moral arguments

### Evaluation

- Group project/homework assignment/critical review

## **Week Four**

### Learning Objective(s)- 9-11

### Assigned Reading- Chapters 10-12

### Suggested Learning Activities

- Evaluate television commercials
- Students present either a 500-word written or oral persuasive argument about a controversial topic.

### Evaluation

Post-test, final examination, essay, speech, or final project

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity. Plagiarism, cheating and other misconduct are serious violations and will not be tolerated, and may result in academic penalties, including suspension or dismissal.

**Participation** is a basic requirement for an effective learning community. Students' participation will be assessed and reflected in the participation grade. Class participation is based on the following criteria: arriving to class on-time; paying attention during lectures and discussions; respectful listening when someone else is speaking; being engaged in the class and in your learning without distractions such as texting, side-bar conversations, checking your phone or email etc.

**Makeup exams** will be allowed only with pre-approval of the instructor or with an acceptable, documented reason. Acceptable reasons for makeup exams include severe illness, family emergency or other unavoidable events. Exam format for makeup exams may be different than the original exam but the content for the exam will not change.

**Assignments** are due at the start of class on the day noted. Late assignments without penalty will be accepted only in cases of emergency. Students should discuss turning in late work directly with the instructor and in advance of the due date whenever possible. Late assignments will not be accepted if the assignment has already been graded and returned to the class.

### **Civility/Professionalism**

This class is a community of learners, which means we will depend upon each other for support and information. In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different than ourselves. Please honor the uniqueness of your classmates and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from one another. Please respect each other's' opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind.

It is of the utmost importance to communicate with courtesy and professionalism. Professional courtesy includes respecting other's' opinions, being courteous and respectful, and working together in the spirit of cooperation.

### **University and Program Policies**

Students are expected to abide by the policies set forth in the University Catalog and the Student Program Handbook/Manual. The University Catalog is available electronically at <http://www.keiseruniversity.edu/catalog/>. The Program Student Handbook/Manual is available electronically at the direction of your instructor.

### **Disability Accommodations**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must complete the application process and receive approval from the review committee. The first step is to consult with the Campus President or Dean of Academic Affairs.