



Course Outline

Code: TPP107

Title: Critical Thinking in Society

School: Tertiary Access
Teaching Session: Semester 2
Year: 2019
Course Coordinator: Emma Kill Tel: 54301215 Email: ekill@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator: Sandra Elsom

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1 Description

Critical thinking is vital for university students as it is the process by which we collect and evaluate evidence to reach rational, informed and ethical conclusions. Using the framework of the sociological imagination, students will investigate contentious issues in contemporary society. You will learn how to debate topics based on fact and logic and to develop respectful, cogent and informed arguments. You will learn how to think, not what to think, but to consider the daily decisions you make and how they shape the world.

1.2 Course topics

Critical thinking skills:

Analysis

Reasoning

Evaluation

Argumentation

Reflection

Ethics

The sociological content of the course will vary according to current events, however the themes investigated include work, education, media, class, power, gender and health.

2. What level is this course?

100 level Introductory - Discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Normally associated with the first full-time year of an undergraduate program

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

Please be aware units from this course cannot be counted for credit towards an award-bearing program.

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:	Assessment tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcomes in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Apply the sociological imagination to social issues to identify historical, structural, cultural and critical influences on various social issues.	Task 2 Task 3	Creative and critical thinkers Ethical
Use critical thinking skills to identify, evaluate, develop and present arguments from an ethical perspective.	Task 1 Task 2 Task 3	Creative and critical thinkers Ethical
Distinguish between various sources of information, selecting appropriate authorities to support arguments.	Task 2 Task 3	Creative and critical thinkers Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1 Enrolment restrictions

Students must be enrolled in TP000 or XE001

5.2 Pre-requisites

Nil

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

Nil

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not Applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

Standard – High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL)

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

In preparation for Task 1 Online Quiz, a practice quiz is available in Blackboard. This quiz will familiarise you with the style of questions to be asked in Task 1, and giving an incorrect response directs you to resources to review that material or concept. This practice quiz can be taken as many times as you like and it is available from week 1.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Online quiz based on course readings and tutorial activities	Individual	20%	1 hour	Week 4	Blackboard
2	Argumentative essay	Individual	45%	1000words	Week 9	Blackboard
3	Structured critical analysis	Individual	35%	800words	Week 13	Blackboard
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Online quiz

Goal:	Students will focus their attention on applying basic critical thinking skills to recognise patterns, and to identify reasons, conclusions and arguments within a message.
Product:	Quiz
Format:	This task requires that you respond online to multiple choice questions relating to those materials. You will complete a multiple-choice quiz of 20 questions based on workshop content and activities from the first 3 weeks of the semester
Criteria:	1. Correct identification of the appropriate response

Assessment Task 2: Argumentative essay

Goal:	Students demonstrate their ability to analyse a topic and produce an academic essay on a current social issue from an ethical perspective.
Product:	Essay
Format:	You are to select one a current Australian social issue and produce a written assignment that adheres to the format and writing conventions of an argumentative essay.
Criteria:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of the selected topic 2. Demonstration of an enquiry process that involves research, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of current information. 3. Selection, analysis and synthesis of academic and non-academic sources. 4. Identifies the benefits (social, economic and environmental). 5. Academic writing style conventions and referencing.

Assessment Task 3: Structured critical analysis

Goal:	Using your previous essay topic as a foundation, you will draw from your contested social issue, investigate the arguments and ethical implications to present your findings using the template provided.
Product:	800 word structured critical analysis.
Format:	Your structured critical analysis, of 800 words, will be informed by the research in your task 2 essay. It will be presented according to the template provided.
Criteria:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an ability to critically analyse a topic. 2. Identify specific arguments presented within a topic. 3. Validate arguments using peer reviewed academic literature. 4. Outline the ethical implications. 5. Present academic work in accordance with the task.

7. Directed study hours?

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. A 12 unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

Location:	Directed study hours for location:
Sippy Downs	Tutorial: 3-hour tutorial each week for the 13 weeks of semester.
USC Gympie (Semester 1 only)	Tutorial: 3-hour tutorial each week for the 13 weeks of semester

7.2 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content What will I learn?
1	Sociological imagination Critical thinking overview Barriers to critical thinking
2	Opinions, facts and positions Media
3	Identifying arguments and reasons Education
4	Finding and evaluating evidence Work
5	Critical reading and note-making Class
6	Clarity, consistency, structure and language Deviance and Crime
7	Critical, analytical writing Health
8	Reading between the lines – identifying assumptions Power
9	Cognitive biases Immigration
10	Fact Checking
11	Identifying flaws in argument Gender
12	Critical reflection Globalisation
13	Drafting and peer review

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site. Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1 Prescribed text(s)

There is no prescribed text for TPP107.

8.2 Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. Risk management

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers, and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1 Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2 Assessment: Additional requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day
- 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late.

To request an extension, you must contact your Course Coordinator and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#).

Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website:

<http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC South Bank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au