

Critical Thinking

Course Outline, Summer 2017

Please consider that this is just an outline of how we proceed. While it sets out a path and time-line for what we cover and at what pace, almost always it is something we lag behind.

Please note that because I will be out of town, meetings on August 17th and 18th will be made up in some manner. Either we will extend classes, 15 minutes or up to 30 minutes, in our last two weeks or we will meet on two Fridays.

Week One: July 4-6

Our meetings in this period will introduce students to the nature of Critical Thinking. It will cover **Chapter 1** in our textbook and some of **Chapter 2**.

Week Two: July 10-13 (*first assignment will be given this week or the next*)

As we engage **Chapter 2** of the text, we want not only to develop a critical attitude and posture to our beliefs but also think critically about the limits of critical thinking itself. We will also cover part of **Chapter 3**.

Week Three : July 17-20

Examining **Chapter 3** in our textbook, the class will develop a sophisticated appreciation of arguments, which will include an ability to identify, diagram and evaluate arguments. (Usually this section takes longer than expected)

Week Four: July 24-27 (*Possible Midterm this week*)

As we tackle **Chapter 4**, our meetings will emphasize using the principles to render judgments on how the degree of acceptability of claims and beliefs. We will also start on **Chapter 5**.

Week Five: July 31-Aug 3 (*Possible Midterm this week*)

We continue **Chapter 5** and then move quickly into **Chapter 7, 8 or 9**

Week Six: Aug. 8-10 (*2nd assignment is dispensed this week*)

We will determine what is next to come, either Chapter 7 or 8 or 9 or a combination thereof.

Week Seven: Aug. 14-17

At this stage in the course, we will do what time allows in either chapter 8 or 9.