

Critical Thinking (Prospective Syllabus)

In this class you will learn about how people *should* think and how people *actually* think. The goal is that you will walk away knowing how to think better. Not only will you learn how to evaluate arguments, assess evidence, and recognize fallacies, but you will also learn why people are so good at reasoning about certain topics and so bad at reasoning about others. The goal of the course is for you to learn to improve your own reasoning so that, going forward, you are less prone to bias, fallacy, and confabulation.

Texts

[WA] *A Workbook for Arguments* by David R. Morrow and Anthony Weston

[HWR] *How We Reason* by Philip Johnson-Laird

Assignments and Grading:

- 20% In-Class Activities
- 20% Weekly Exercises
- 20% Exam 1
- 20% Exam 2
- 20% Argumentative Essay and Oral Presentation

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Part 1: How we should think

Week 1: WA, Introduction

Week 2: WA, Identifying Arguments

Week 3: WA, Generalizations

Week 4: WA, Arguments by Analogy

Week 5: WA, Deductive Arguments

Week 6: WA, Inductive Arguments; **Exam 1**

Part 2: How we do think

Week 7: HWR, Introduction

Week 8: HWR, The World in Our Conscious Minds

Week 9: The World in Our Unconscious Minds

Week 10: HWR, What Makes Us Rational

Week 11: HWR, How We Develop Our Ability to Reason

Week 12: HWR, Expert Reasoning in Technology, Logic, and Science; **Exam 2**

Part 3: Why we think

Week 13: "Evolutionary Psychology" by Tooby and Cosmides (online), **Paper Assigned**

Week 14: "Modularity" by Buller and Hardcastle (online)

Week 15: "Modularity" by Buller and Hardcastle (online)

Week 16: **Oral Presentations, Paper Due**