Online course learning objectives

This course equips students with the skills and habits of critical thinking. It teaches practical techniques for confident, discerning critical engagement with sources, evidence, arguments and reasoning. The course also:

- Builds key reasoning, argument and analysis skills.
- Boosts writing, essay and exam results.
- Improves work, planning and research habits.
- Provides explicit training in a key skill sought by graduate recruiters.
- Teaches digital and information literacy.

Language: English
Time to complete: 10 hours
Instructor: Dr. Tom Chatfield

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: HOW TO THINK ABOUT EVIDENCE

- Introducing critical and uncritical thinking.
- Introducing objectivity and scepticism.
- Introducing fast and slow thinking.

MODULE TWO: HOW TO ARGUE

- Spotting arguments.
- Reconstructing an argument.
- Premise or conclusion?
- Challenging assumptions.

MODULE THREE: HOW TO EVALUATE EXPLANATIONS AND REASONING

- Being reasonable.
- Reasoning with logic and certainty (deductive arguments).
- Reasoning with evidence and probability (inductive arguments).
- Evaluating arguments.

MODULE FOUR: HOW TO THINK CAREFULLY AND DELIBERATELY

- Explanations, hypotheses, and theories.
- Evidence and proof.
- Causation and correlation.
MODULE FIVE: HOW TO STRUCTURE WRITING AND READING

• The power of rhetoric and persuasion.
• Seeing through faulty reasoning.
• Understanding and overcoming bias.

MODULE SIX: HOW TO MANAGE TIME AND ATTENTION

• The digital context.
• Making sense of what we are told.
• Apply critical thinking in digital research.