F29CT Critical Thinking

COURSE DETAILS
Course Code: F29CT
Full Course Title: Critical Thinking
SCQF Level: 9
SCAF Credits: 15
Available as Elective: No

DELIVERY LEVEL
Undergraduate: Yes  Postgraduate Taught: No  Postgraduate Research: No
Additional Information:

COURSE AIMS
The module aims to give students the opportunity to develop general thinking skills which will be useful to them throughout their studies and future lives.

They will gain knowledge and experience of:

- **Critical thinking** including assessing credibility of evidence, assessing and developing arguments, resolving dilemmas and critical reasoning.
- Using a statistical package tool for social sciences (SPSS) to analyse data to support arguments.
- **Cognitive strategies and meta-cognitive skills** including the capacity to evaluate and switch thinking strategies when appropriate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – SUBJECT MASTERY
Students will develop skills in the following areas:

- Critically analysing arguments in written or verbal form.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of their thought processes and problem solving techniques
- Evaluating statistical and experimental methodologies using SPSS
- Communicating ideas and solutions to others, including those from other disciplines.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – PERSONAL ABILITIES
Students will develop skills in the following areas:

- Analyse and interpret numerical and graphical data as evidence for an argument
- Develop and generate theories to model observations, and use data collection and analysis to prove/disprove the theories.
- Communicate critical thinking effectively to non-expert audiences
- Exercise autonomy and initiative by planning and managing their own work (PDP)
- Take responsibility for their own and other’s work by contributing effectively and conscientiously to the work of a group (PDP)
SYLLABUS

The importance of hypothesis and theories to test arguments, the research process to generate and test theories, populations and samples.

Data collection and analysis and the use of SPSS.

Logical fallacies, critical thinking case studies drawn from topical media reports, effective strategies for problem solving, cognitive tools, flaws in human reasoning, experimental design, descriptive and inferential statistics.

Use of solution techniques from other disciplines in problem solving.

Reporting and explaining solutions using a wide range of formats and notations, including textual, graphical and symbolic forms.

COURSE RELATIONSHIPS

N/A

LOCATION AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

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