



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Critical Thinking: LCGE1340

Fall 2021 (Term 221)

Jeffrey G. Audirsch
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
Office phone: (504) 282-4455, ext. 3744
Office hours: Available for Zoom Meetings

Leavell College Suite
jaudirsch@nobts.edu

The mission of Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be introduced to the concept of critical thinking. Emphasis will be given to identifying, analyzing, and synthesizing the components of arguments. Additionally, students will develop necessary skills and habits for logical reasoning, which will lead to becoming a better thinker. *Prerequisite: None*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CSLOs)

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. Understand and identify key elements of thought/thinking outlined in the textbook.
2. Identify and further develop the skills needed for becoming a better, critical thinker.
3. Be able to think critically about ethical and theological issues from a Christian worldview.
4. Be able to critically identify, understand, and analyze oral and written arguments.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

1. Fisher, Alec. *Critical Thinking: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion Boards: This course is designed to be a learning laboratory. Weekly attendance and participation—along with reading the required textbook and PowerPoints—will serve as the foundation for the class. In conjunction with the assigned reading and PowerPoints, students will apply what s/he has learned to a variety of topics in several discussion board forums. Students are NOT required to respond to other student posts. The discussion boards are worth 25 percent of the total grade.
2. Reading Quizzes: Reading is an integral part of the course objectives, providing important background material to the lectures. Students are required to complete the assigned reading for each unit. Students are required to read the assigned chapters from Fisher’s *Critical Thinking*. Students will complete weekly quizzes covering the assigned textbook reading. Quizzes will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions, and they will only cover the material specified on the syllabus schedule. The reading quizzes are worth 25% of the final grade.
3. Final Exam: The final exam will cover the material discussed in class as well as pertinent material from the required textbook and supplementary readings. The exam will consist of objective and subjective questions. Students will be given no more than two hours to complete the exam. The final exam is worth 20 percent of the total grade.
4. Critical-Thinking Papers: The student is required to write a one-page, single-spaced paper describing her/his position on the current illegal immigration debate in the United States. The paper must be typed in Times New Roman with one-inch margins.

At the end of the semester, the student will read differing voices on the topic of illegal immigration in the United States. The student will use the elements of thought/thinking outlined in *Critical Thinking* as well as the tools for identifying, understanding, and analyzing arguments to revisit his/her position on the illegal immigration debate in the United States. The second critical-thinking paper must show a well-reasoned and clear argument for the student’s position. If the student’s position on immigration has not changed, s/he must provide rationale(s) for the lack of change. The second paper must be typed in Times New Roman with one-inch margins. The paper should be no longer than 3 pages double spaced. Students are encouraged to interact with the various voices in the required reading. The Critical-Thinking Papers are worth 30 percent of the total grade.

GRADING

Discussion Boards (25%)
Reading Quizzes (25%)
Final Exam (20%)
Critical-Thinking Papers (30%)

GRADING SCALE

A: 93 - 100
B: 85 - 92
C: 77 – 84
D: 70 – 76
F: below 70

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: There will be a late penalty of 7 points per day on all writing assignments, including weekends. After 5 days, no late work will be accepted. A missed quiz will count as a zero. Exams can must be made up within 48 hours, excluding the final exam.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.
6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/
8. Style Guide: A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or it can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Elder, Linda, and Richard Paul. *A Glossary of Critical Thinking Terms and Concepts: The Critical Analytic Vocabulary of the English Language*. Tomales, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press, 2009.
- Hunter, David A. *A Practical Guide to Critical Thinking: Deciding What to Do and Believe*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2009.
- Morrow, Jonathan, with a Foreword by Darrell Bock. *Thinking Christianly: Looking at the Intersection of Faith and Culture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- Paul, Richard, and Linda Elder. *Critical Thinking: Learn the Tools the Best Thinkers Use*. Columbus, OH: Pearson Prentiss Hall, 2006.
- . *Critical Thinking: Tools for Taking Charge of Your Learning and Your Life*. Columbus, OH: Pearson, 2012.
- . *How to Study & Learn a Discipline Using Critical Thinking Concepts & Tools*. Tomales, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press, 2011.
- . *How to Write a Paragraph: The Art of Substantive Writing. Foundation for Critical Thinking*, Tomales, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press, 2011.
- . *The Thinker's Guide to Analytic Thinking*. Tomales: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press, 2016.
- Ryken, Philip Graham. *Christian Worldview: A Student's Guide*. Crossway, 2013.