



This course supports the objective assessment for Critical Thinking and Logic. The course covers 6 competencies and represents 3 competency units.

Introduction

Course Overview

Welcome to the Critical Thinking and Logic course at Western Governors University. The goal of this course is to encourage techniques that increase knowledge and application of a systematic process for exploring issues that take you beyond an unexamined point of view. As you come to understand aspects of critical thinking, you will find yourself consciously monitoring your thinking in order to improve how you think. As you become a more self-aware thinker, you will learn to balance a healthy skepticism with an intellectual humility that discourages premature closure on the issues you seek to understand.

Watch the following video for an introduction to this course:

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Getting Started

Here are some tips to help you make the most of this course and succeed in demonstrating your competencies. As you begin the course:

- Spend a few minutes looking through the content of this course to get a general grasp of it.
- Take the pre-assessment to gauge your current knowledge level (suggested after completing Modules 1 and 2).
- Review the coaching report with your course instructor to create a personal study plan.
- Refer to the pacing guide to stay on track to completion.
- Click the "Complete" button on the Lock in Progress page (under Learning) to officially begin the course.

As you proceed through the course, follow the advice given on the Learning Resources page, under Learning. Note:

- MindEdge is the learning resource you'll be using; it includes e-text readings, videos, and exercises.
- The MindEdge modules contain suggestions on e-text readings of full chapters; these supplemental readings offer deeper insights into relevant concepts
- Attend live events, if you can, to discuss concepts with the course instructors and other students (see Live Events page under Learning).
- View videos from the Critical Thinking and Logic Library.
- Meet with your course instructor regularly to maintain momentum, elicit advice, and



prepare for the objective assessment.

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 6 competencies:

- **Competency 1007.1.4: Problem Identification and Clarification**
The graduate analyzes open-ended problems by learning about the problem and evaluating the accuracy and relevance of different perspectives on the problem.
- **Competency 1007.1.5: Planning and Information Gathering**
The graduate evaluates different sources representing a range of perspectives on a problem in order to weigh the implications and consequences of different solutions to the problem.
- **Competency 1007.1.6: Assumptions and Values**
The graduate identifies internal and external biases and assumptions related to a problem and then evaluates the influence and validity of these biases and assumptions.
- **Competency 1007.1.7: Analysis and Interpretation of Information/Data**
The graduate synthesizes information to understand a problem's complexities and potential solutions, and then evaluates the reasoning and evidence in support of these different solutions.
- **Competency 1007.1.8: Reaching Well-Founded Conclusions**
The graduate logically brings together information to arrive at a viable solution to a problem, and then clearly and accurately communicates the results.
- **Competency 1007.1.9: Identifying the Role of Critical Thinking in the Disciplines and Professions**
The graduate recognizes the value of critical thinking in identifying and understanding the underlying structures of disciplines and professions.

Learning Materials

The information in this section will help you succeed in this course.

Learning Resource

The information in this section will help you succeed in this course.

MindEdge

Your course modules are housed in MindEdge. You will be linked to the resource in each of your course activities. This resource includes e-text readings, videos, and exercises to help you learn the content. It is recommended you complete the modules, pre-assessment, practice question sets, and objective assessment in order as listed in the pacing guide.

Follow the pacing guide to complete the course in six weeks. For each of the modules you should plan to:

1. Read the entire module carefully, you are encouraged to read the supplemental e-text readings of full chapters for deeper insights,
2. Watch the instructional videos,
3. Complete the interactive exercises, flashcards, and vocabulary games,



4. Assess your understanding with the module self-assessment.

MindEdge also includes two long Practice Question Sets. These are comprised of problems that will provide you with practice applying the course concepts, and the results will help you gauge your progress and identify areas where you might benefit from further study. It is recommended that you take these *after* completing your work in the modules.

Live Events

[C168 Live Events](#)

The Critical Thinking & Logic course instructors host several live events each week in which you can get additional assistance with course concepts and practice exercises. The events listed are in the Mountain Time zone.

Click on the calendar title (C168 Live Events) to open the calendar in a new window.

Pacing Guide

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

Week 1

- Complete module 1.
- Complete module 2.
- Take the preassessment.

Week 2

- Complete module 3.

Week 3

- Complete module 4.

Week 4

- Complete module 5.
- Complete module 6.

Week 5

- Complete module 7.
- Complete module 8.

Week 6

- Complete the Practice Question Sets in MindEdge.



- Re-take the preassessment.
- Take the objective assessment.

Lock in Progress

Once you are ready to start or are actively working in this course of study, mark the activity below as complete. You only need to complete this step once.

Mark Complete to Lock in Course of Study Progress

Click the check mark above or below if you are actively engaged in this course.

Course Work

Complete the activities in this section to gain competence.

Topic 1: What Is Critical Thinking?

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.4: Problem Identification and Clarification**
The graduate analyzes open-ended problems by learning about the problem and evaluating the accuracy and relevance of different perspectives on the problem.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- How skilled is your current thinking?
- Can you respond effectively to a rapidly changing world without improving the way you think?
- How can you overcome the unique obstacles to effective thinking in your personal and professional life?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 1: What Is Critical Thinking?](#)

Topic 2: Elements and Standards

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.4: Problem Identification and Clarification**
The graduate analyzes open-ended problems by learning about the problem and evaluating the accuracy and relevance of different perspectives on the problem.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- What mental processes do you use to make sense of something you do not at first understand?
- What exactly do you do every time you make a decision?
- How aware are you of the role of reasoning in your life?



- What thinking is reflected in the way you behave?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 2: Elements and Standards of Critical Thinking](#)

Topic 3: Systematic Problem Solving

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.5: Planning and Information Gathering**

The graduate evaluates different sources representing a range of perspectives on a problem in order to weigh the implications and consequences of different solutions to the problem.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- How do you go about resolving a problem in your personal life or in the workplace?
- How do you keep an open mind when exploring alternative perspectives on an issue?
- Are you able to see flaws in your own thinking, as well as strengths?
- Are you able to see strengths in the thinking of others, especially when it conflicts with your own?
- Do you value well-founded judgment in determining the true worth of an idea or do you believe winning is always more important?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 3: Systematic Decision Making and Problem Solving](#)

Topic 4: Assumptions, Biases, and Fallacies

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.6: Assumptions and Values**

The graduate identifies internal and external biases and assumptions related to a problem and then evaluates the influence and validity of these biases and assumptions.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- Are you aware when your thinking is flawed?
- Are you able to identify inconsistencies in the thinking of others?
- Can you diplomatically discuss and correct flaws in reasoning wherever you find them?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 4: Identifying Assumptions, Biases, and Common Fallacies](#)

Topic 5: Evidence



This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.7: Analysis and Interpretation of Information/Data**

The graduate synthesizes information to understand a problem's complexities and potential solutions, and then evaluates the reasoning and evidence in support of these different solutions.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- Are you aware of how much you rely on evidence or data to make decisions in your daily living?
- Have you ever used data or evidence to correct distortions or incorrect conclusions?
- Are you aware when you, or others, withhold relevant evidence from the analysis of an issue?
- Have you ever questioned the use of data or evidence that you thought might be inappropriately applied?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 5: Examining the Evidence](#)
- [Module 6: The Use of Statistics](#)

Topic 6: Thinking About Your Thinking

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 1007.1.8: Reaching Well-Founded Conclusions**

The graduate logically brings together information to arrive at a viable solution to a problem, and then clearly and accurately communicates the results.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- Do you ever catch yourself thinking in a self-deluding or self-serving way?
- Do you think about the consequences for others when you make a decision?
- Do you take time to consistently monitor and self-correct your thinking?
- Have you developed the habit of routinely assessing your thinking in the workplace?
- What strategies are you using to improve your job performance?
- What strategies are you using to improve as a member of your family and community?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 7: Thinking About Your Thinking](#)

Topic 7: Critical Thinking in the Disciplines

This topic addresses the following competency:



- **Competency 1007.1.9: Identifying the Role of Critical Thinking in the Disciplines and Professions**

The graduate recognizes the value of critical thinking in identifying and understanding the underlying structures of disciplines and professions.

Learning Activity

Use the following questions to guide your study in this topic:

- In what ways is professional knowledge a form of power?
- To what extent can professional knowledge be used to benefit others?
- How can you learn to think about your profession in the most powerful and rational way?
- Is there a difference between how your discipline or profession is ideally perceived and how it is actually practiced?

Complete the following in MindEdge:

- [Module 8: Critical Thinking in the Disciplines and the Professions](#)

Topic 8: Practice Question Sets

Complete the MindEdge [Practice Question Sets](#).

This module contains two question sets designed to help you apply what you've learned. It will help you prepare for the objective assessment.

Assessment Prep

Objective Assessment

As you prepare for the assessment, keep in mind that demonstrating competency in Critical Thinking and Logic means demonstrating critical thinking *skills*, not mere knowledge of facts *about* critical thinking. This means that the interactive exercises, practice question sets, live events, and in some cases, individual appointments with course instructors, can be vital to your learning process.

Preassessment

It is recommended that students complete the first two modules in the MindEdge learning resource, then take the preassessment immediately afterward. Taking the preassessment early on will help you identify the specific areas to focus on in your study. After you have studied those areas of the learning resource thoroughly, the preassessment can be used to determine readiness for the objective assessment.

First Attempt Checklist

To ensure you have the best chance possible of passing the exam on your first attempt, the following should be completed before you take it:

1. Engage all of the assigned content in the learning resource, with additional emphasis where needed (based on your preassessment coaching report).
2. Complete the activities associated with each section.



3. Attend live events and/or view supplementary videos for additional help with any areas you are struggling with.
4. Pass the preassessment with a score *above* the cut score. (We recommend 10 points or more.)

If the first attempt is not passed, you will be required to get in contact with a course instructor to see what went wrong and how you can prepare to ensure your second attempt is a success. Once the course instructor determines that you are ready to refer for the second attempt of the exam, he or she will approve your second exam attempt.

Policies

Please review these important policies:

Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu.

Netiquette

Netiquette Guidelines

Online Netiquette: Guidelines for WGU Students These guidelines are a quick reference source for interacting with fellow students, mentors, and WGU staff. While these guidelines adhere to the standards outlined in the WGU Student Handbook, they are not meant as a replacement for the explicit information presented in the handbook.

Be professional and respectful:

- Be civil and kind in your interactions with others.
- Respond to important emails sent to you.
- Be cautious when using ALL CAPS (yelling), sarcasm, and humor.
- Be cautious when posting content(pictures, comments).
- Avoid forwarding spam or selling anything.
- Keep comments related to the topic.
- Be aware that mentors, students, and others live in different time zones.

Be short, concise, and readable:

- Use sans serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Helvetica) with a point size of 12 or higher.
- Use acronyms cautiously. For example, common acronyms such as FAQ and RSVP are fine; however, unknown acronyms like UCET or USOE should be spelled out.

Be credible:



- Cite references and sources such as web links, articles, books, etc., when possible.
- Re-read your emails to clarify and ensure it sends the intended “message.”

Be safe:

- Keep personal information private to avoid identity fraud.
- Keep other’s information private (WGU students, companies, etc.)