

Module code	SEL702			Level	7
Module title	Critical Thinking: A Path to Smarter Choices				
Status	Elective				
Teaching Period	Autumn/Spring				
Courses on which the module is taught	All Postgraduate Courses				
Prerequisite modules	n/a				
Notional learning hours	100	Credit value	10	ECTS Credits	5
Field trips?	No				
Additional costs	No				
Content notes	No				

1. Module description

Learn the power and value of clear and concise critical thinking - How it affects decision-making and ethical reflection. This module will identify how logical reasoning and strong argumentation leads to success, both at the postgraduate level and in the world generally. This module will refine your critical thinking skills further by examining the tools of logical analysis, argument construction, and evidence assessment. You will study how theories or ideas are applied, or misapplied, in real world contexts, leading to widespread misperceptions, poor quality thinking habits, conspiracy theories and mistaken ethical reasoning. You will learn how to avoid these errors and to work efficiently and effectively with others to generate logically sound decisions in challenging changing contexts, where there are multiple sources of evidence, diverse perspectives, and divergent ethical positions.

2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

Decision Making (MLO 04)

Formulate informed decisions in complex situations using critical and reflexive thinking.

Discipline Knowledge (MLO 07)

Critique and synthesise theories, concepts and facts at the forefront of your field of study relevant to the task

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

Your learning will occur through classroom interactions and workshops. The central element of each week's learning involves engaging in small and large group discussions where you can exchange interpretations of the material with your peers. The module classes employ various teaching methods to enhance comprehension of logic, reasoning, and argumentative skills. These methods include in-class practical demonstrations, debates centered on specific topics, exploration of ethically challenging case studies, micro-lectures, and opportunities for personal reflections

Learning hours				100
Directed learning				36
Workshops/ classes/ seminars/ lead events	Supervision	Studio time	Other	
36	0	0	0	
Guided/Self-guided learning				64

4. Assessments and weighting, reasonable adjustment, and feedback methods

Oral examination, 100% TMM 5-10 minutes

This oral examination will evaluate your understanding of relevant knowledge from the module, your ability to utilise reasoning skills, and your reflection on how reasoning skills relate to your personal development.

Reasonable adjustments for the assessment will be confirmed with students that have a support plan in place.

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	LO1	LO2
Oral Examination	x	x

The above assessment component is summative. Students will have the opportunity for formative assessment and feedback before each summative assessment.

5. Indicative resources

Katz, Louise; Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing for Postgraduates, Bloomsbury, London, 2018.

Swatridge, Colin; Oxford Guide to Effective Argument and Critical Thinking, Oxford UP, Oxford, 2014

Bowell, T.; Cowan, R. and Kemp, G.; Critical Thinking: A Concise Guide 5th Edn, ed, Routledge, London, 2020

Hanscomb, S.; Critical Thinking: The Basics, Routledge, London, 2016.

Informal Logic entry in Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy website, <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2022/entries/logic-informal/>>

List of Logical Fallacies website: <<https://bitcoinprimeapp.de/logicalfallacies/>>

The Conversation website: <<https://theconversation.com/uk>>