

Critical Reading and Thinking
Instructor: Mrs. Kathryn DiCorcia
Office: Library 331

LERN 105L
Phone: 575-3000 ext. 2158
e-mail: Kathryn.DiCorcia@marist.edu

Text: Thinking Critically: A Concise Guide, by John Chaffee

Goals: The goals of this course are to enhance and sharpen students' abilities to think clearly, logically, critically, and effectively through reading. This course aims to develop proficiency in the higher levels of reading and thinking – analysis, inference, and evaluation. We will be using college-level reading materials to practice the above principles of analysis as well as comprehension of content.

*Library research is an integral component of this course.

Objectives:

1. Through intensive readings, students will learn to:
 - solve issue-oriented problems and make informed decisions.
 - generate, organize, and evaluate ideas.
 - reason analytically.
 - explore issues from multiple perspectives.
 - apply knowledge to various contexts and new circumstances.
 - critically evaluate the validity of information.
 - develop evidence and arguments to support views.
 - carefully analyze situations with appropriate questions.
 - discuss subjects in an organized manner.
 - become aware of one's own thinking process in order to monitor and direct it.
2. Students will practice reading strategies which are applicable to CORE content area courses. Students will explore the issues of diversity in one unit while practicing these reading strategies.
3. In cooperation with a Marist College librarian, students will learn how to use library research techniques, both onsite and online.

Requirements:

1. Each student will prepare readings for discussion and written assignments.
2. Each student will be required to complete a debate project that demonstrates critical reading and thinking analysis skills necessary for CORE content courses.
3. Each student will complete a unit on diversity.
4. Each student will demonstrate understanding and application of the reading process through the successful completion of the midterm project.

Grading: Grades will be based on participation, attendance, class/homework activities, midterm project, and final debate as follows:

<u>Participation/Attendance</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>Class and homework activities</u>	<u>15%</u>
<u>Midterm project</u>	<u>30%</u>
<u>Debate</u>	<u>45%</u>

Attendance Policy: Attendance in this class is mandatory. More than two absences will result in automatic failure. If you miss a class, you are expected to make up the work as soon as possible.

Schedule of Topics		
Date	Class Topic	Assignment
Class 1	Course Overview	
Class 2	Jurors' and Judges' Reasoning Processes	Chapter 1
Class 3	Debate Topics, Liberty vs. Security	Chapter 2 Debate Assignment 1
Class 4	Debate Topics	Continue Chapter 2
Class 5	Living with Diversity	Chapter 3, Debate Assignment 2
Class 6	Perceptions of Patriotism	Chapter 4, Library Lesson 1 Midterm Assignment
Class 7	Character and Intellect	Chapter 5, Debate Assignment 3
Class 8	Human Cloning	Chapter 6, Library Lesson 2 Debate Assignment 4
Class 9	Critical Thinking and Obedience to Authority	Chapter 7
Class 10	Debate Appointments	Continue Chapter 7
Class 11	Thinking Critically	Chapter 8
Classes 12	Final	
13	Debate	
14	Presentations	