Lincoln University

COURSE SYLLABUS – Fall 2026

Course: English 75 - Critical Thinking (ENG75)
Class schedule: Mondays, 12:30 PM – 3:15 PM
Course prerequisites/co-requisites: None
Credit: 3 units (45 lecture hours) / 15 weeks
Level: Introductory (I)
Instructor: Dr. Roman Borukhov
Office hours: by arrangement, room 308
Office phone: 510-628-8036
University instructor email: rborukhov@lincolnuca.edu

Instructional Materials and References

Required Texts:

Mayfield, M. (2014). *Thinking for yourself*. (9th Ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning: Wadsworth. (TFY) ISBN 978-1133311188

Vaughn, L. (2015). *The power of critical thinking: Effective reasoning about ordinary and extraordinary claims* (5th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press**. (TPCT)** ISBN 9780199385423

Companion Sites

Thinking for Yourself Site

ThePower of Critical Thinking

Course Description
Consideration of cognitive skills and communicative strategies for defining, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information. Course includes structural and operational approaches to task/mission analysis, decision-making, change forecasting, adaptation, and evaluation. System approach to analysis and solution of complex problems. Conceptual issues in problem definition, goal determination and measurement of effectiveness (3 units).

Educational Objectives

Skills emphasized include ability to examine objectively various sides of issues and to effectively use the procedures involved in systematic problem solving. Additional skills targeted include increased ability to develop and apply academic and professional communication skills, including improved ability to interact appropriately with challenging materials at an increased level of communicative competence.

Instructional Methodology

This is a direct classroom instruction course.

The course sessions will include lectures, A/V-augmented presentations (text-based and other topically related slides and relevant audio/video/web resources), written and oral classroom exercises applying course concepts, small group and classroom discussions, student presentations of individual and group assignments based on course units, with emphasis on engaging students in learning by doing.

Assignments and projects require students to actively use resources of the library. Detailed guide to business *resources of the library* as well as the description of Lincoln University approach to *information literacy* are available at the LU Library website (lincolnuca.libguides.com).

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to consistently attend class punctually and fully (arriving on time and leaving the classroom only at the scheduled break and end times). Successful students participate in individual and group work in a productive manner, prepare and perform well on tests, complete assignments according to schedule and at a level appropriate to university rubrics, and take personal responsibility for meeting the objectives of the course.

Topical Outline

Topics covered are factors in critical and creative thinking including observation skills, appropriate language skills and encoding strategies, differentiating among fact, inference, judgment, recognizing fallacies of reasoning and evaluation, understanding viewpoint, analyzing character, logic, and emotion in persuasion.

Homework Assignments

For each of the units outlined on the syllabus (as well as additional assignments given in class), students will do the following by the date listed on the schedule below:

Read assigned materials with care and understanding.

Respond to the main points of each chapter assigned by listing three or four key questions with answers (no more than two or three sentences each).

Reflect on the unit in writing (a brief paragraph or two).

Email your unit and chapter assignments to me at borukhovroman@gmail.com, before the date on the schedule.

For midterm and final review assignments, students will present a review ePortfolios/PPts adapted from the weekly assignments as individual or team projects.

Assessment Criteria

Students will demonstrate their level of achievement through appropriate and accurate application of critical thinking theory, including problem-solving, analysis, and decision-making criteria in approaching and solving text, classroom, and real-world exercises, individually and as group participants. Evaluation will include exercises, daily assignments (oral and written), review ePortfolios of homework and expansions for midterm and final reviews, and midterm and final examinations. The distributions are indicated in the tables below.

Items	**Points**
Exercises/ Daily Assignments, Oral and Written	20
Midterm	25
Review ePortfolio/PPt I, II	10
Presentation of Assignments	10
Final Exam	35
Total	**100**

Points	100-95	94-90	89-87	86-84	83-80	79-77	76-74	73-70	69-65	64-60	59-0
Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F

SCHEDULE

#	Date	Unit	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS Thinking for Yourself (TFY) The Power of Critical Thinking (TPCT)
1	8/24/2026	Introduction	TPCT Ch. 1: The Power of Critical Thinking Where Do You Stand?
2	8/31/2026	Observation	TFY C1, Observation Skills: What's Out There? TPCT Ch. 2: Obstacles to Critical Thinking

3	9/14/2026	Language and Thought	TFY C2, Word Precision: How Do I Describe It?
4	9/21/2026	Facts	TFY C3 Facts: What's Real?
5	9/28/2026	Inferences	TFY C4, Inferences: What Follows? TPCT Ch. 9: Inference to the Best Explanation
6	10/5/2026	Assumptions	TFY C5, Assumptions: What's Taken for Granted? TPCT Ch. 4: Reasons for Belief and Doubt TPCT Ch. 5: Fallacies and Persuaders
7	10/12/2026	Opinions	TFY C6. Opinions: What's Believed? TPCT Ch. 11: Critical Thinking in Morality and Law Review; ePortfolio 1
8	10/19/2026	**Midterm**	
9	10/26/2026	Points of View	TFY C7, Viewpoints: What's the Filter?
10	11/2/2026	Argument	TFY C8, Argument: What's a Good Argument?
11	11/9/2026	Fallacies	TFY C9, Fallacies: What's a Faulty Argument?
12	11/16/2026	Induction	TFY C10, Inductive Reasoning: How do I Reason from Evidence?
13	11/23/2026	Inductive Fallacies	TFY C11, Inductive Fallacies: How Can Inductive Reasoning Go Wrong?
14	11/30/2026	Deductive Reasoning Review E-Portfolio/PPt 2 Presentations	TFY C12, Deductive Reasoning: How Do I Reason from Premises?
15	12/7/2026	**Final**	

Syllabus reviewed: August 2026