

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**2019/20 special summer semester**  
**UGED1810S Critical Thinking 批判思考**  
**Course Outline**

**Instructor: Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson**  
**Time: Tuesday 10:30-12:15**  
**Venue: Zoom**

**Course overview:**

The course aims to provide a basic training in critical reasoning as a methodological foundation of independent thinking. Students will learn how to extract, construct, and evaluate arguments; how to identify common fallacies, Cognitive Bias and to reflect on the use of language and its bearing on clear thinking; and how to think critically about issues in both real life situation and theoretical arguments which they commonly encounter in the course of their studies.

**Learning outcomes:**

1. Acquire analytic skills and a critical disposition.
3. Translate arguments in ordinary language into symbolic argument forms.
4. Recognize common valid argument forms.
5. Identify, classify, and assess arguments in various contexts.
6. Understand Scientific and Moral Reasoning
7. Identify and analyze informal fallacies.
8. Identify and analyze cognitive bias.

**Assessment:**

<b>Task nature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Class participation	Class discussion	5%
Mid-term quiz	In class quiz	30%
Final exam	Take home exam	50%
Take home assignment	Group assignment on Informal Fallacies and Moral Reasoning	15%

**Learning activities and workload:**

- 1. Lecture:** 2 hours per week.
- 2. Reading and Exercise:** 2 to 3 hours per week.

**Grade Descriptors:**

[http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

**Details of course website:**

We use Blackboard Learn for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments will be posted on the website.

**Topics & schedule:**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Apr 7	Introduction: The thinking model	<i>An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity</i> , Ch.1; <i>How We Reason</i> , Ch.1
2	Apr 14	Cognitive Bias	<i>Thinking, Fast and Slow</i> , Part 2.
3	Apr 21	Linguistic-Conceptual Analysis	《思方導航》，第一篇 <i>Informal Logic</i> , Ch.1&9
4	Apr 28	Basic Concepts of Logic	<i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> , Ch. 1
5	May 5	Basic Concepts of Logic	
6	May 12	Symbolic Language and Truth Table	<i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> , Ch.6
7	May 19	Conditional Reasoning	<i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> , Ch.6-7; <i>A rule book for arguments</i> , Ch.6
8	May 26	Inductive Reasoning	<i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> , Ch.1&9
9	Jun 2	<b><u>Mid-term quiz</u></b>	
10	Jun 9	Scientific Reasoning	<i>A Concise Introduction to Logic</i> , Ch.10; <i>How to Think About Weird Things</i> , Ch.6
11	Jun 16	Moral Reasoning	<i>An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity</i> , Ch.18
12	Jun 23	Informal Fallacies	《思方導航》，第五篇
13	Jun 30	Informal Fallacies	《思方導航》，第五篇

**Recommended learning resources: (# main reference)****Critical Thinking in general:**

Joe Y. F. Lau, *An Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity: Think More, Think Better*, Wiley publication, 2011.#

Brooke Noel Moore and Richard Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 10th ed., McGraw Hill, 2012

Theodore Schick and Lewis Vaughn, *How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age*, 7th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2014.

Jordan Ellenberg, *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking*, Penguin Books, 2015.

Philip Johnson-Laird, *How We Reason*, Oxford University Press, USA, 2009

**Linguistic-Conceptual Analysis:**

貝剛毅,《思方導航》(第四版), 匯智出版有限公司, 2014.#

李天命,《語理分析的思考方法》, 青年書屋, 1999

李天命,《李天命的思考藝術》(最終定本), 明報出版社, 2009

**Formal Logic:**

Patrick Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., Cengage Learning, 2015.#

Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Hackett Publishing Company, 2009.

Irving Copi, Carl Cohen and Kenneth McMahon, *Introduction to Logic*, 14th ed., Pearson Education Limited, 2014.

Merrie Bergmann and James Moore, *The Logic Book*, 4th ed., McGraw-Hill, 1998.  
林正弘,《邏輯》,三民書局,1994。

**Informal Logic:**

Douglas Walton, *Informal Logic 2nd edition*, Cambridge University Press, 2008#  
Alec Fisher, *The Logic of Real Arguments*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.  
Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*, 7th ed., Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning, 2010.  
Trudy Govier, *Problems in Argument Analysis and Evaluation*, Foris Publications, 1987.  
貝剛毅,《思方導航》(第四版),匯智出版有限公司,2014.#

**Moral Reasoning:**

James Rachels, *The elements of moral philosophy 6<sup>th</sup> edition*, Boston: McGraw Hill.2010.#  
L. P. Pojman, *Ethics: Discovering right and wrong*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. 2006.

**Cognitive Bias:**

Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, Penguin Books, 2012 #  
David Hand, *The Improbability Principle*, Bantam Press, 2014  
魯爾夫.杜伯里著,王榮輝譯,《思考的藝術》,商周出版,2012  
魯爾夫.杜伯里著,王榮輝譯,《行為的藝術》,商周出版,2012

**Contact:**

<b>Lecturer</b>	
Name:	Dr. Kwok Pak Nin, Samson
Office Location:	KHB 414
Consultation Hour:	Monday 10:30-12:00
Telephone:	3943-1519
Email:	samsonkpn@cuhk.edu.hk

**Feedback for evaluation:**

1. Students are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with lecturer.
2. Students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback between teacher and students. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

**Academic honesty and plagiarism:**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> .

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.