

Appendix D

Example CT Elective Syllabus

(Two examples of CT standards; adapted from Paul¹)

Week 1: Introduction

What is Critical Thinking and Why is it Important?
Cognitive Skills and Effective Behaviors
Intellectual Standards

Week 2: Language

Definitions and Semantics
Informative vs. Emotive Language
Inconsistent Language: Vagueness and Ambiguity, Contradiction and Oxymoron

Week 3: Logic

Deductive vs. Inductive Reasoning
Cause and Effect
Categorical Logic and Venn Diagrams
If-Then Statements

Week 4: Argument

Construction of an Argument
Logical Fallacies

Week 5: Claims and Evidence

Do Statistics Tell The Truth?
Scientific Evidence
Individual Testimony

Week 6: Application

Historical CT Blunders

Week 7: Application

Problem Solving and the Decision Process

- Week 8: Learning Theory
Traditional vs. Emerging Theory
- Week 9: The Affective Dimension
Are Humans Disposed to Critical Thought?
- Week 10: Biases
Ego-centric and Ego-social Behavior
- Week 11: Application: Bias in the Media
Finding Biases and Fallacy in the Media
- Week 12: Self-destructive Behavior
Why Smart People Do Dumb Things
- Week 13: Application: Considering Opposing Viewpoints
Advocating and Discussing Difficult Issues
- Week 14: Creativity
Creative Problem Solutions and Decisions
- Week 15: Harnessing Critical Thinking
Socrates or Sophistry?

Notes

¹ Richard Paul, *Critical Thinking: What Every Person Needs To Survive In A Rapidly Changing World*, (Santa Rosa, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking, 1993), 157.