SOCS 1405: Critical Thinking in Society

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course meets Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goal areas 2 and 7. This course deals with learning and applying various critical thinking strategies, problem solving techniques, and levels of critical analysis to improving social and personal relationships. In the context of diversity awareness and social tolerance, the learner examines form vs. content; validity, truth, and the soundness of arguments; and the difference between fact, judgment, and belief. This course teaches techniques for thinking and acting creatively, objectively, and clearly.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 12/23/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Examine how beliefs and thought process are developed.
2. Examine sociological topics using critical thinking skills.
3. Examine the importance of strong rationales for personal and social topics in the critical thinking process and practice developing these rationales.
4. Examine the role of assumptions and active learning in the critical thinking process.
5. Understand the theoretical foundations and socialization processes and their impact.
6. Understand the foundation of critical thinking skills and the role of thinking processes.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The learner will recognize and articulate the complex set of values and assumptions that underlie and affect personal and societal decisions, problems, observations, analyses, and evaluations.
2. The learner will be able to work interactively to achieve a common goal, presentation, or discussion.
3. The learner will be able to use a problem-solving model to analyze, research, develop, and apply a solution to a specific social problem.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted