

Critical Thinking

Introduction

What is critical thinking?

You read an article in a newspaper or watch a programme on TV and wonder; what is true, what isn't true and what is exaggerated. This process of thinking through is called critical thinking. Wouldn't it be great to be able to undertake this process and apply it to solving problems, resulting in a reasoned conclusion? This course will concentrate on developing your critical thinking skills and enable you to look at academic and every-day subjects from a critical thinking based perspective.

What will you learn?

- To understand and use critical thinking in academic and every-day life.
- To understand the following terms; assumption, stereotyping and bias.
- To form a logical argument, asking and answering critical questions.

Who is this course aimed at?

The "Critical Thinking" course is part of the "Skills for Learning" programme which has been designed to help anyone who wants to develop their academic writing skills for study and training in a number of areas.

What are the entry requirements? (If applicable)

This is a Level 2 course so people will need to have a previous achievement at level 1 in English and/or an ability to work at Level 2 in English.

You will be required to take a Numeracy and Literacy initial assessment.

How is it taught?

You will be guided through the learning in a supportive and encouraging way. You will work with the tutor and other students in order to develop your critical thinking skills. There will be the opportunity to work in groups as well as working individually. On the course, you will be expected to participate in discussions/debates and to produce written or word processed responses. Students are always encouraged to support each other.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed by participating in group discussions, paired work and written assessment.

Your course tutor marks the portfolio of work which is then internally and externally moderated by the Open College Network.

What will you achieve?

All courses in the "Skills for Learning" programme enable people to achieve credits towards the "Level 2 Certificate in Progression." By completing the "Critical Thinking" course you achieve 4 credits at level 2 which go towards this qualification.

What can you do after this?

Skills for Learning is a group of courses that complement each other so working through them all or attending a number of courses would be extremely beneficial to you.

You are encouraged to choose a personalised combination of courses from the “Skills for Learning” area and from other courses included on the Progression Pathway in order to find a suite of courses that suit your interests and help to develop your skills. Successful completion of a number of courses allows you to accumulate the required number of credits in order to achieve the Level 2 Certificate in Progression. Following a pathway will help you get the most out of coming to Fircroft College.

When does it run?

This is a three day course which includes two nights residency at the College. Courses start at 5.00pm on the first day and finish at around 3 pm on the third day. Please check our website or short course guide for course dates. Alternatively you can contact our Short Course office.

Is there a cost?

For information on course fees please visit our website at www.fircroft.ac.uk or contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116.

How can you apply?

For more information please contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116 or email shortcourses@fircroft.ac.uk. You can apply online at www.fircroft.ac.uk, by post or in person.