



## INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING

<b>Credit points</b>	<b>3 CP</b>		
<b>Study course annotation</b>	<p>The course " Introduction to Critical Thinking " occupies an important place in the professional training of bachelors in the field of social psychology. Its development provides future social psychologists with the principles and skills of scientific thinking. In the process of studying the Training course students master the whole set of principles and rules of analytical thinking, as well as the basics of scientific methodology: they know how to apply the rules of logic, principles of analytical thinking and methodology of science, and rhetoric in professional activities. Mastering such a set of regulations is required for all specialists in the context of complex communication processes of modern Information civilization.</p>		
<b>Aim of the study course</b>	<p>The aim of the course is to form a clear understanding of the essence of critical (analytical, scientific) thinking and its methods; to ensure the successful development of knowledge of the principles of critical thinking; skills and competencies in the implementation of logical analysis and methodology of science in public speeches. Without this knowledge, skills and competencies, the effectiveness of professional dialogue, disputes, discussions and public speaking is reduced.</p>		
<b>Objectives of the course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To form students ' knowledge and skills:</li> <li>• knowledge of the nature, structure, rules and functions of critical (analytical) thinking.</li> <li>• ability to use the technique of critical analysis of information.</li> <li>• ability to apply the rules of proof and refutation of ideas in the field of scientific, professional and everyday practice.</li> <li>• knowledge of various methods of text preparation in the aspect of applying the principles of logic, rhetoric, epistemology and methodology of science</li> <li>• knowledge of various methods of preparing and conducting a oral presentation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Study course results</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Competences</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• structural elements, functions, models of critical thinking;</li> <li>• criteria for determining the logical correctness and factual validity of the argument,</li> <li>• types, structures of evidence, rules and possible errors in justification procedures, features of constructive and destructive criticism;</li> <li>• main types of persuasion, scheme of persuasion; features of public speech and its technique;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• operate with the concepts of critical thinking and distinguish it from other forms of intellectual activity;</li> <li>• correctly perceive information of various contents and use logical means to analyze reasoning on managerial and socio-psychological problems;</li> <li>• conduct discussions and polemics, applying the principles and rules of logic and techniques and skills of public speech reasoned writing own point of view;</li> <li>• determine and evaluate the logical and methodological significance of the initial provisions (judgments) of the arguments of partners and opponents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ability to carry out critical analysis of information and problems situations in the decision-making process ;</li> <li>• formulate and argue for their own position on various issues, as well as correctly refute the position of the opponent;</li> <li>• initiate analytical discussions of new ideas and projects, participate in the processes of applying creative thinking and innovative solutions.</li> </ul>



Study course content	Topics	
	1	Critical thinking as analytical and constructive intellectual activity
	2	Propositions, judgments, statements and reasoning. Descriptive (descriptive) and evaluatepropositions.
	3	Terms and concepts; logical relations between terms and their application in the analysis of reasoning.
	4	Categorical statements and quantifiers; categorical syllogisms as a classical form of deduction
	5	Connecting and disconnecting statements; implications in reasoning; logical following
	6	Methodological principles of operating with statements; explanations and interpretations.
	7	Inference: reasoning from premises to conclusion. Deduction and complex deductive reasoning.
	8	Inductive reasoning-generalizations of individual judgments. Analogy and understanding by analogy.
	9	True and valid judgments. Deductive validity and inductive force
	10	Understanding the assumptions and reasoning and thinking map
	11	Persuasion and argumentation Methods of forming beliefs (opinions).
	12	Questions in dialogues and answers to them as the basis of argument. Answers in the structure of the dialogue. Controversy and dispute.
	13	Strategy and tactics of dispute, debate, polemics and debate
	14	Basic models of scientific reasoning. Science and pseudoscience.
	15	Critical thinking in the educational process, in the workplace, in everyday life; its barriers
16	Theory of critical rationalism	
<b>Form of assessment:</b>	Exam	
<b>Obligatory literature:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bassham G., Irwin W., Nardone H, Wallace J. M. Critical thinking. A student's introduction. 4-th Ed. Publ. by McGraw-Hill, NY, 2011.</li> <li>2. Vedins I. Loģika. Avots. R., 2009.</li> <li>3. Ivins A. Pareizas domāšanas māksla. R., 1990.</li> </ol>		
<b>Further reading list:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Miniature Guide to The Foundation for Critical Thinking <a href="http://www.criticalthinking.org">www.criticalthinking.org</a> 707-878-9100 <a href="mailto:cct@criticalthinking.org">cct@criticalthinking.org</a></li> <li>2. By Dr. Richard Paul and Dr. Linda Elder Critical Thinking Concepts and tools Paul, R. W. (2011). "Reflections on the Nature of Critical Thinking, Its History, Politics, and Barriers and on Its Status</li> <li>3. across the College/University Curriculum Part I." Inquiry: Critical Thinking across the Disciplines 26(3): 52</li> </ol>		
<b>Other sources of information (electronic journals):</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elementary Logic: <a href="http://www.philosophypages.com/lg/index.htm">www.philosophypages.com/lg/index.htm</a></li> <li>2. Ivins A.. Loģika (Kr.Val): <a href="http://www.psylib.org.ua/books/ivina01/index.htm">www.psylib.org.ua/books/ivina01/index.htm</a></li> </ol>		
<b>Changes and additions to the program and literature list are possible during the study process</b>		