

CrCrTh 601, Critical Thinking, Fall 2017
Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation

The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See questions 1-3 listed on <http://bit.ly/CCTEval>

Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- This course was very well put together. The meetings were informative and helpful, the class atmosphere was friendly and open, and all the assignments were clearly stated and explained. The instructor returned submitted work in a timely manner, and was always willing to explain to us how we could do things better next time. The activities were interesting, varied, and uniformly helped us to better understand critical thinking as a concept.
- This course is an opportunity to be introduced to a baseline in critical thinking, but also a true reflection of the CCT Master's program. The collaborative nature of the course allows for engagement and exploration in your own work and the work of others. Whether you are interested in developing and deepening your own thinking or planning to facilitate others, this course allows for reflection, opportunities to strengthen thinking practices and tools to initiate the critical thinking process. There is something for everyone and applicable to many lifestyles, professions and needs.
- This class, while not using as direct of an approach as I initially thought, encourages students to expand their critical thinking horizons. The class makes a student feel like they are on their own unique path to critical thinking enlightenment and that their path is not the same as the other students.
- the tools you learn in this class are practiced every day, which allows us the opportunity to understand how to use them and begin to put them into practice immediately. this course allows for discussion of a wide arrange of topics allowing to open up you mind and explore alternatives.
- This course provides an opportunity to explore your own thinking and apply elements of the course to your personal and professional growth. It requires you to be actively engaged and decide what you want to gain and how you wish to develop and improve after the course.
- CrCrTh 601 is a foundation exploration into the very complex universe of critical thinking. This is not a course to skim through, you do yourself a disservice by not carving out twice as much time as you expect to need but the engagement is well worth it.
- One of the main takeaways that I experienced in the Critical Thinking course is to question my own understanding of critical thinking. This formed an important foundation to my learning process and enabled me to use the tools and knowledge from this course and localize it in a way that will be useful for my intended professional purpose. I believe that individuals who enjoy

the process of collaborative learning would widely benefit from this. The course is conducted in a way where dialogue and exploration is encouraged and for the learner who is willing to critically reflect, would provide many new insights.

- This has been a very valuable course, which I am glad to have taken. One of the main positive aspects about it is the sense of community and collaboration it offers; in a way in which we all share and learn from one another, finding support from the instructor and classmates. The highlight of the course itself is the fact that regardless of your background, field of work, or topic of interest, everyone is able to take advantage of it in ways that suit their specific needs. The course entails a lot of work, reading, writing and dedication over all. Consequently, there will possibly be times when you will question your decision about having registered for it. However, the value of the course itself, and the knowledge and experiences gained, makes it all worth it.
- Critical Thinking delivers tools that help you with your own thinking around issues. It's surprising how much of a class environment can be built up on an online course through the use of the same techniques and processes week in, week out. It's not an easy course for people that are uncomfortable with ambiguity and self-learning, but nothing good comes easily!