

CRITICAL THINKING (CRCRTH 601) SYLLABUS

UMASS, Boston -Fall 2014

BOB SCHOENBERG, INSTRUCTOR

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This is a 3 credit graduate course offered online via the University of Massachusetts (UMB) at Boston. UMB is accredited by the New England Council of Schools and Colleges.

CODE OF CONDUCT: The University's Student Code of Conduct

(http://www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/policies/code) exists to maintain and protect an environment conducive to learning. It sets clear standards of respect for members of the University community and their property, as well as laying out the procedures for addressing unacceptable conduct. Students can expect faculty members and the Office of the Dean of Students to look after the welfare of the University community and, at the same time, to take an educational approach in which students violating the Code might learn from their mistakes and understand how their behavior affects others.

OBJECTIVES:

To further develop the critical thinking skills and dispositions of the course participants
To help participants understand what critical thinking is and how to apply the skills and strategies of critical thinking in a wide variety of settings.
To help participants develop the capability of helping others become better critical thinkers.
To understand how stress impairs one's ability to think critically and to use stress management to promote critical thinking.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Developing Minds. Edited by Arthur L. Costa. 3rd Edition. 2001. Publisher: ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) The book can be ordered directly from the publisher. Call 1-800-933-2723. Website: www.ascd.org

. (A limited number of books are at the campus bookstore at UMASS, Boston if you happen to be in the area).

Note: The text will be supplemented by additional articles on the web. Specific articles are listed in the Expanded Course Outline.

Recommended but not required: Critical Thinking in Business by Bob Schoenberg. 2007

Publisher: Science & Humanities Press. Website: www.criticalthinkinginbusiness.com

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LIBRARY BARCODE:

Some reading assignments will be located in E-reserves at the UMB electronic library. Online students may access the UMB electronic library by means of a barcode. To obtain a barcode an online student must e-mail

library.circulation@umb.edu and give:

- name as appears at registration

- semester and year

- course name and number
- student ID #
- e-mail address

You will receive an e-mail with barcode information. The barcode is good for the semester you are enrolled in an online UMB course. The barcode enables you access e-reserves for this course, access electronic resources (books, etc.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A PERSONAL EMAIL ACCOUNT

. Assignments	Points
Weekly Assignments	20
Blog	20
Project	25
3 short Reports	15
Two online mtgs	5 (2.5 pts/meeting)
Final Paper/Proj	15
	100

2 Short Reports

Running the Blog students choose date
 Peer Review assigned date Review of Project

ALL ASSIGNMENTS - email to CTthinking@gmail.com

Assignments are subject to change. However, workload will not increase.

Note: Matriculated CCT Students are required to include one assignment into their Portfolio. This will be your Reflection Report.

- Assignments **MUST** be in proper form. Copy and paste your work right into your email account. Attached files, links and downloads, will **NOT** be accepted. The first time you send me an assignment in improper form, I will return it to you without penalty. Thereafter, any assignment sent to me in improper form will be return to you and will be considered late. (See **Late Policy** – below)

ABOUT LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late posting to the BLOG will **NOT** be accepted due to the time-sensitive nature of these discussions. However, extra credit will be given for extra postings.

LATE POLICY - Late Classwork and Papers

The following policy applies only if you have turned in 2 late assignments or have an assignment that is outstanding for more than 10 days. If either of these conditions apply, future late class

assignments will be accepted, but you will lose points for each day the assignment is late. For late papers/projects you will lose a 1/2 letter grade for each day the paper is late. Extension of deadlines will be provided for extenuating circumstance, on a case by case basis, solely at the discretion of the instructor. Turn assignments in on time and avoid the Late Policy

GRADES & EVALUATION:

The criteria used to evaluate your papers and projects will be contained in the guidelines which are provided to you. Assignments which are not of minimal standard will be returned to you as a "redo". If you "redo" the assignment, you will be guaranteed a higher grade on that assignment, but not necessarily an "A". If you choose not to do the assignment again, the current grade will stand. For example, if you receive the grade of a "B -" and do not do the assignment again as a "redo", you will receive the grade of a "B -" for that assignment. Your Final Paper/Project can be resubmitted, only if you send me a draft before the assignment is due.

Grading: Grades in the graduate programs at UMass Boston can be A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, or F. There is no A+ grade. Students must maintain a grade point average of B to remain in good standing and graduate. Grades of A, the highest allowable grade, are awarded for demonstration of superior and excellent work and are taken seriously by faculty. A's are not universally awarded. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 93 - 100
A- = 87 - 92
B+ = 80 - 86
B = 72 - 79
B- = 65 - 71
C+ = 58 - 64
C = 50 - 57

Mastery System – you will always have an opportunity to resubmit an assignment that was below par (less than a B). This takes the focus off grades and puts it on content and learning. However your Final Paper/Project can be resubmitted, only if you send me a draft before the assignment is due. There will be an alternative assignment available.

Postings on the BLOG are graded as follows:

2 points = full credit, 1 point = substandard
0 (zero) no credit (Late postings are NOT accepted and will receive a zero)
+ (plus) = exceeded requirements (awarded for outstanding work).
You get extra credit for doing extra posts – provided they are of quality

Regular Weekly Collaborative Assignments

Regular weekly assignments are worth 2 points each and can be resubmitted for full credit if your initial grade is less than 2 points..

REDO – assignments that are substandard can be resubmitted.

For all other assignments – you can resubmit for a higher grade. Resubmitting the assignment will result in a higher grade, but not necessarily the grade of “A”.

Extra Credit - an optional extra credit assignment may be done with the instructor's approval.

Time Requirements – This course will require at least as much time as a regular face to face graduate course in Critical Thinking and most likely will require more time. Time management is

essential. Please plan, accordingly.

A Typical Class - The class will take place on a Wiki. There will be very limited use of Blackboard. Each week there will be a new class posted. The "class" will consist of some statement(s) written by me usually focusing on a specific topic or theme and will have some activities and assignments for you to do. Much of the learning that will take place will be among each other as you will be working and collaborating with other participants in the class. You will need to check into the classroom at least once a week and Post on the **BLOG** once a week. You should check your email daily. Much more time will be spent communicating and collaborating with other participants in the course, particularly in regards to projects.

Each week you will have: 1) a reading assignment, 2) a collaborative assignment and 3) will be required to post on the Blog. Starting around the 3rd week of class, you will also begin working on the Class Project – a collaborative project that will run for several weeks of the semester. You will be assigned a partner(s) for this assignment. For all other collaborative assignments, you may choose your own partner.

COLLABORATIVE NATURE:

This course is based upon collaborative learning. This means that you will be working together with other participants in this class. Using various technologies, including chat, instant messaging or texting, email and collaborative files. You will actually have more contact with other participants in this class than you would in a regular face to face class. Much of the learning that will take place will occur as you collaborate and work with each other. My role is more of a facilitator, providing the structure and learning activities. You may use any of the following collaborative tools: email, instant messaging, chat, Google documents, Hangouts (Google +), Collaborative pages in the Wiki, Wimba or Skype. You may use other tools if both of you agree - such as Facebook or other programs as well.

Technical Specifications

You will need a headset with a mic attached (available in most computer stores or online)

You may need to download the following software if you do not have it. All of these downloads are free

1. Shockwave Player - This free software is required to utilize Chat
<http://www.macromedia.com/software/shockwaveplayer>

2. Real Player - This software may be required to view streaming media. Look for the free 'FREE Real Player' link.
<http://www.real.com/realone>

3. Adobe Acrobat Reader Some course files may also require Adobe Acrobat Reader-(.PDF format)
<http://www.adobe.com>

4. Microsoft Office Viewers
Users that do not have MS Office installed on their machines will need to download MSWord Viewer (.DOC format), MSPowerPoint Viewer, MS Excel Viewer. (Look for free Microsoft Viewers
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads>

5. Skype.com – for live voice communication and more. <http://www.skype.com>

QUESTIONS? CONTACTS:

Registration Questions? Contact Jason Campos. Telephone 617-287-7910 or email jason.campos@umb.edu

Academic Questions? Contact your instructor - Bob Schoenberg.
Bobsch3@gmail.com

AVAILABILITY of INSTRUCTOR:

You can email me anytime of the day or night. However, I am NOT available on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis. Usually, you can expect a reply to your email within 24 hours or less. If you have a general question, you should post it on the Frequently Asked Questions Page on the Wiki.. For urgent or personal matters, please email me. I check my email, regularly and frequently. However, **please be advised that I take one day off a week. From Friday evening until Saturday evening, I do not use my computer or check email.** If you write to me late Friday afternoon, it's possible I may not respond to your message until Sat. night or even Sunday.

Rather than offer specific office hours, I prefer to work by appointments, realizing that many of you are busy during the day. I am quite flexible and can often schedule evening and weekend appointments. (Appointments can consist of the use of the chat room, Wimba or Skype or Google Phone or even a regular phone). In addition to scheduled appointments and email, I will be hosting some chat room discussions and discussions using Wimba or Skype (live voice communication) where anyone in the class will be able to talk with me - exact time to be announced. You'll actually have more access to talk with me than you would in a regular face-to-face classroom where instructors usually keep office hours during the day.

If you have an urgent problem or some type of an emergency, you can call me. However, such a phone call should really be reserved for an urgent matter or an emergency situation. If you know you will be away for a few days or you will be offline (computer failure) please let me and your collaborative partner know. If I know you're having some sort of problem, please let me know as I may be able to accommodate you.

Chat with Instructor- At least once during the semester, I will have an online chat with each of you using either Wimba or Skype or Hangout. You will need a microphone and need to download and test some software (Wimba) before we do this and/or Skype. The software is free. Additional conferences may be requested by either party and serve as an excellent way for us to communicate with each other. Most students find these conversations to be very rewarding as does your Instructor. It's a chance for use to talk, live.

Online Meeting - twice a semester, we will all go online at the same time and using Wimba/Skype software (which is free), we will be able to talk to each other live, via a microphone and headset hooked up to your computer. If you have a web camera (optional), we will be able to see each other as well. (You will need to purchase a microphone and a headset to participate in this meeting unless you already have such equipment). Most computers come with a built in mic and speakers. A headset is preferred as the sound quality is better. PLEASE test your equipment in advance of this.

Please note that our first "Town Meeting" using WIMBA/Skype software will take place during the 3rd week of classes. Wimba is Mac compatible! You will need to have access to a PC/Mac for the Wimba Meetings. A headset with mic attached is also necessary to participate in Wimba . (Wimba provides live voice communication via your computer. You will be able to talk with me and other students in the class, regardless of their physical location. This software is free for students of this course). The Online Meeting is a mandatory requirement of the University.

COMPONENTS of COURSE:

BLOG - You can post a comment or respond to one. This is a threaded discussion. Whatever you say should reflect critical thinking. Use of the BLOG is restricted to academic topics. "Flaming" or verbally attacking someone, is not allowed. While you certainly can disagree with someone, if you wish to have a personal discussion with someone, take it off line and either use email or the phone. Note your post will be archived (saved).

Chat - Unlike the BLOG where you post a message, chat allows you to instantly type something and immediately, everyone in the chatroom will see your message and can instantly respond to it. Certain Chatroom discussions will be archived (saved).

Email is the primary way that we will communicate with each other. It is essential that we have each other's email addresses and that they are correct. **All Students are required to have a personal email account.**

Google Documents – can be used for collaboration. You will not need to be online at the same time as your collaboration partner to use Google Documents. Google also offers free phone calling and Instant Messaging and with Google + you can use Hangout, which allows for both live audio and optional video.

Attachment and Links from Google docs or any other source are NOT accepted. A better alternative is to use the Wiki Projects space. Each of you will have your own page with full editing permission.

Wiki Pages – You will be using a Team Page for your Class Project. You may request an additional page for regular collaborative assignments. There may be other areas of the wiki available for your use. In addition, you will be able to create your own personal wiki if desired.

Secured Website - Access to the Blackboard and my Wiki is restricted. Only people who are authorized and have a proper password will be allowed to enter. Students in other online classes will NOT have access to this site.

Academic Honesty

You are required to do your own work unless it is a collaborative assignment, in which case you need to clearly indicate who did what. When in doubt, always cite your sources. Plagiarism, even if unintentional is taken very seriously and results in significant consequences.

Accommodations

Sections 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 offer guidelines for curriculum modifications and adaptations for students with documented disabilities. If applicable, students may obtain adaptation recommendations from the Ross Center (617-287-7430). The student must present these recommendations to your instructor within a reasonable period, preferably at the beginning of the semester.

Class Readings - are listed in the expanded Course Outline which is a separate document.

This syllabus is subject to change.
