

Advanced Critical Thinking

Online course learning objectives

This course equips you with practical critical thinking skills you can apply across your studies, work, and everyday decision making. You'll learn how to examine your own thinking, evaluate arguments fairly, and avoid common reasoning errors. The course also shows how to collaborate and think critically with others, including when working alongside emerging technologies like Gen AI.

This course will help you to:

- Grasp the differences between critical and uncritical thinking, and build confidence as a reflective learner.
- Apply metacognitive strategies to improve self-awareness and deepen your approach to reasoning and problem-solving.
- Analyze arguments effectively by identifying fallacies, avoiding distortions, and mastering techniques like steel man and Socratic questioning.
- Use reframing, premortems, and collaborative discussion to explore perspectives, anticipate challenges, and enhance decision-making.
- Integrate technologies, including Gen AI, as tools to support critical thinking and collaborative learning.

Time to complete: 3 Hours

Level: Advanced

Instructor: Dr Tom Chatfield

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: SPOTLIGHT ON CRITICAL THINKING

This module will help you to:

- Remind yourself of the differences between critical and uncritical thinking
- Explore how critical thinking techniques can help you become a more confident learner and thinker
- Consolidate fundamentals and reflect on next steps to deepen your approach to critical thinking

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MODULE TWO: ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

This module will help you to:

- Recognize and put into practice metacognitive strategies to improve your self-awareness as a thinker
- Master the art of making steel man arguments and identifying straw man distortions to analyze reasoning more effectively
- Identify and understand common formal and informal fallacies, both in your own and others' work

MODULE THREE: SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES AND THINKING CRITICALLY TOGETHER

This module will help you to:

- Apply Socratic questioning to uncover unexamined assumptions and deepen your understandings
- Use reframing techniques to shift your perspective and gain insight into problems
- Conduct premortems to spot and mitigate flaws and risks in your plans or ideas
- Engage in critical discussion groups to share and extend your thinking alongside others
- Use technologies like Gen AI as a critical thinking partner