Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008104	**Version:** 5 **Date Amended:** 06/May/2025

1. Module Title
Critical Thinking

2a. Module Leader
Lucyna Mazur

2b. School
AHESS: ARU College

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
3

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module aims to enable you to participate in and practice independent learning tasks for deeper thought and investigation as needed for Higher Academic pursuits. This module will help to teach you, reinforce, and practice your independent learning and critical thinking, as opposed to rote memorisation for success in University and professional life.

This module aims to encourage your practice of relevant critical thinking skills. This module will be delivered to you in an open-class forum of discussion, to encourage your critical thinking skills within academic and professional-facing contexts.

This module will enable you to invest in strategies that will deepen understanding and interpretation of processes, motives, argument, rationale, credibility, and possibilities which will then be applicable to a range of studies.

During this module, you will participate in a Socratic Discussion based around Conspiracy Theories and Source Checking to encourage presentation and debating skills.

You will also undertake research, based on an issue related to your degree programme, to review the main points of examining an argument in depth. You will then learn to create a personal response that analyses the content of the issue under study.

6b. Outline Content

This Module will apply different forms of thinking and creating, critical thinking skills, and how to apply them:

- Brainstorming, negative-brainstorming, mind mapping, random words
- Critical thinking skills: Interpretation; analysis; inference; explanation; evaluation
- Team building and team organisation
- Critical reading, source checking and bias, Media bias and propaganda
- Argument mapping
- Structured class discussions- what is a Socratic discussion
- Synthesizing to form complete arguments
- Decision making process and theory

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Describe the advantages associated with using the techniques known as critical thinking in ways that relate to the topics being considered.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Describe how knowledge, evidence, and errors in thinking influence problem solving.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse sources of information, regardless of format, and evaluate their relevance and reliability and use these appropriately in the development of an argument including reliability, argument mapping, and identifying fallibility.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Formulate effective arguments using the skills of critical thinking.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	48	1-4	4 hours per week x 12 teaching weeks
Student managed learning	102	1-4	Pre and post session preparation, reading and research. Other tasks as detailed in Module guide
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	3 4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Workbook including all work from each week					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1 2 3 4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Research Report (up to 1000 words)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]