



蘇州大學
Soochow University

BUS 211 Critical Thinking for Business

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In the dynamic landscape of modern business, critical thinking is an essential skill that enables professionals to navigate complex challenges and make informed decisions. This course is designed to equip students with a framework for analyzing and evaluating business practices, theories, and discourse within a broader ethical, social, and economic context. By fostering a critical perspective, students will learn to question assumptions, identify biases, and develop solutions that are both effective and socially responsible.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the principles of critical thinking and apply them to business scenarios;
2. Evaluate contemporary business issues from multiple perspectives, considering stakeholder interests and societal impact;
3. Analyze and critique business theories in light of historical and cultural influences;
4. Develop a working knowledge of ethical frameworks and their application in business decision-making;
5. Construct well-reasoned arguments and persuasive communication in the business context;
6. Synthesize information from diverse sources to inform strategic planning and problem-solving;
7. Recognize and address cognitive biases that can affect judgment in business settings.



PREREQUISITES

None.

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Group Projects	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Presentation	10 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Critical Thinking: The Nature of Critical and Creative Thought by Richard W. Paul, Linda Elder, 2006, Philosophy, Education.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Critical Thinking in Business Topic 2: The Nature of Knowledge in Business Topic 3: Logic and Reasoning in Commercial Decision-Making Topic 4: Perspectives on Business Ethics</p> <p>Assessments: Group Project #1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Stakeholder Analysis and Values in Business Topic 6: Cultural Influences on Global Business Practices Topic 7: Critical Examination of Free Market Capitalism Topic 8: Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Consumer Psychology and Marketing Ethics Topic 10: Innovation and Creativity in Problem-Solving Topic 11: Case Study Analysis: Ethical Dilemmas in Business Topic 12: Understanding and Addressing Biases in Judgment</p> <p>Assessments: Group Project #2 Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Information Literacy: Evaluating Sources Critically Topic 14: Financial Statement Analysis with a Critical Eye Topic 15: The Role of Government and Regulation in Commerce Topic 16: Critical Approaches to Negotiation and Conflict Resolution</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Leadership and the Influence of Power in Organizations Topic 18: Communication Strategies for Effective Change Management Topic 19: Critical Evaluation of Management Theories Topic 20: Technology Trends and Their Impact on Business Models</p> <p>Assessments: Presentation</p>



Module 6	<p>Topics: Topic 21: Data-Driven Decision Making in a Digital Age Topic 22: Exploring Systemic Issues in Business and Economics Topic 23: Critically Assessing International Trade Agreements Topic 24: Social Enterprise and Impact Investing</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>
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ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.

2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.

3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.

5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.



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TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.