

HUL 256: Critical Thinking

Semester II, 2022-23

Course packet I

Perspectives on critical thinking

1. Carolina Flores, “Critical Thinking: What is it to be a Critical Thinker?”
2. Elliot Cohen, preface and introduction to *Freethinking*
3. Kenneth Boyd, “The antidote to fake news is to nourish our epistemic wellbeing”

Why be a critical thinker?

1. Immanuel Kant, “An answer to the question: What is Enlightenment?”
2. W. K. Clifford, “The Ethics of Belief”
3. Helen de Cruz, “Clifford’s Ethics of Belief is the evidentialism we need in these denialist times”
4. Spencer Case, “Is it Wrong to Believe Without Sufficient Evidence?”

Critical thinking and political dissent

1. Noam Chomsky, “The Responsibility of Intellectuals”
2. Jay Parini, “Noam Chomsky’s ”Responsibility of Intellectuals” after 50 years: It’s an even heavier responsibility now”

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Course packet II

Reasons

1. A. Burra “Reasons” (handout)

Language and critical thinking

1. George Lakoff, excerpts from *The All New Don't think of an Elephant*
2. Patrick Hurley, excerpts from *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, chapter two
3. Louis Uchitelle, “How to Define Poverty? Let Us Count the Ways,” *New York Times*, May 26, 2001
4. Robert Todd Carroll. “Language and Critical Thinking,” from *Becoming a Critical Thinker*

Propaganda and Nazi Germany

1. Timothy Snyder, “How Hitler Pioneered ‘Fake News’,” *New York Times*, October 16, 2019
2. Adolf Hitler, extract from *Mein Kampf*
3. “Controlling and influencing attitudes”
4. Karthik Narayanaswami, “Analysis of Nazi Propaganda: A Behavioral Study”
5. Indictment of Julius Streicher by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, 1947
6. Randall L. Bytwerk, excerpt from “The Argument for Genocide in Nazi Propaganda,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 91:1 (2005)
7. Kurt Hilmar Eitzen, “Ten Responses to Jewish Lackeys,” from the *German Propaganda Archive*, trans. Randall Bytwerk.

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Course packet III

Arguments

1. Azim Premji University, *Public Reasoning*, unit 4 (“Deductive arguments”)
2. Azim Premji University, *Public Reasoning*, unit 5 (“Inductive arguments”)

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Course packet IV

Philosophy of science

1. James Ladyman, "Induction and Inductivism" from *Understanding Philosophy of Science*, pp. 11-30
2. Bertrand Russell, "On Induction," from *Problems of Philosophy*
3. Karl Popper, "Science: Conjectures and Refutations"
4. James Ladyman, "Falsificationism" from *Understanding Philosophy of Science*, pp. 74-81
5. Paul Thagard, "Why Astrology is a Pseudoscience"
6. K. Anthony Appiah, "Facts on the Ground," from *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*

"Pro-science" perspectives

1. *Objections to Astrology* – Leading scientists
2. Richard Feynman, "Cargo Cult Science"
3. Carl Sagan, "The Fine Art of Baloney Detection"
4. Statement on Scientific Temper
5. Narendra Dabholkar, "Scientific Outlook"

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Course packet V

1. Alfie Kohn, “What Makes a True Skeptic?”
2. Azim Premji University, “Good public reasoning requires reasoning slowly,” from *Public Reasoning*
3. Daniel Kahneman, “The Characters of the Story,” and “A Machine for Jumping to Conclusions,” from *Thinking, Fast and Slow*
4. Jean Drèze, “Economics among the Road Scholars,” from *Jholawala Economics*
5. Carl T. Bergstrom and Jevin D. West, “Selection Bias,” from *Calling Bullshit: The Art of Skepticism in a Data-Driven World*