**PHI 3102 Critical Thinking**

**Course description:**

This course explores the process of thinking critically and guides students in thinking more clearly, insightfully and effectively. It investigates issues about the nature and techniques of critical thought, viewed as a way to establish a reliable basis for our claims, beliefs, and attitudes about the world. We explore multiple perspectives, placing established facts, theories, and practices in tension with alternatives to see how things could be otherwise. Views about observation and interpretation, reasoning and inference, valuing and judging, and the production of knowledge in its social context are considered. Concrete examples from students experience and contemporary issues will be considered and these helps students to develop the abilities to solve problems, analyze issues, and make informed decisions in their academic, career and personal lives. Special attention is given to translating what is learned into strategies, materials, and interventions for use in students' own educational and professional settings.

**Course Objective:**

The objective of this course is to enable students to critically question their own beliefs as well as those of others, formulate well reasoned arguments to support their beliefs, recognize the possibility of change in their beliefs, and express their beliefs in clear, coherent language. And also to enable students critically discern the effect of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others on the contemporary life.

**Learning Objective(s)**

At the end of this course students should be able to;

1. Apply the principles and techniques of critical thinking to practical problems/issues arising in the student's everyday life.
2. Establish a critical and reliable basis for their claims, beliefs and attitudes about the world.
3. Develop critical thought on their on own beliefs and those of others
4. Develop abilities to solve problems, analyze issues, and make informed decisions in their academic, career and personal lives.
5. Critically apply critical thought in their educational and professional life.
6. Identify fallacies in their arguments and those of others

**Course Outline**

1. The context of critical thinking
2. Problems encountered in the quest for critical thought
3. Strategy for practicing critical thought
4. Application and practice: Critical thinking and the extra ordinary

**Teaching Method:**

1. Lecturing
2. Small Group discussions
3. Guided discovery

**Assessment Methods:**

1. Coursework (Out of 30)
   1. One written group coursework
   2. One test
   3. Each coursework/Test will be marked out of 30
   4. The final coursework mark will be the average of the two
2. Final written examination ( Out of70**)**

**Reading List**

1. Jason, Gary. Critical Thinking: Developing an Effective World View, 1 ed. Wadsworth Publishing Co., Belmont, CA., 2001, ISBN: 0534573894
2. Moore, Brooke N., and Parker, Richard. Critical Thinking, 8 ed. McGraw-Hill, 2005, ISBN: 007312625X
3. Schwarze, Sharon, and Lape, Harvey. Thinking Socratically, 2 ed. Prentice Hall, UpperSaddleRiver, NJ., 2001, ISBN: 0130281638