

Course Overview

Hello and welcome to Critical Reading! Whether you are already a teacher or preparing to become one, mastering critical reading is essential for your success in the classroom and beyond. Have you ever struggled to interpret a text accurately, differentiate between fact and opinion, or assess whether an argument is truly valid? As an educator, your ability to critically analyze texts will shape how you teach, guide your students, and even evaluate learning materials.

Think about this: how can you teach reading comprehension effectively if you yourself struggle to dissect a persuasive argument or recognize bias in a text? Without strong critical reading skills, you might unknowingly pass along misinformation, misinterpret curriculum guidelines, or fail to develop your students' analytical thinking abilities. In today's world—where texts, media, and information come from countless sources—being able to critically evaluate what you read is more important than ever. Have you ever considered how these skills impact your role as a teacher? This course will help you strengthen your reading skills so that you can engage with texts confidently, teach effectively, and model critical thinking for your students.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze different factual text types and their characteristics.
2. Recognize stylistic features and linguistic elements in texts.
3. Apply reading strategies to understand texts at both the language level (grammar, vocabulary) and the text level (structure, meaning, and purpose).
4. Distinguish between explicit and implicit meanings, facts and opinions, and justified and unjustified arguments.
5. Infer meaning, recognize generalizations, and analyze the writer's tone, bias, and purpose.
6. Evaluate texts critically by considering their social and cultural contexts.

Your critical reading mastery will be evaluated through a final test and three compulsory assignments. These assessments will ensure you can apply your skills in real-world reading situations.

This course consists of nine modules, each focusing on a specific aspect of critical reading:

1. Module 1: Introduction to different factual text types (descriptive, expository, persuasive, and argumentative texts).
2. Modules 2-3: Analyzing grammar, word meanings, and diction to enhance text comprehension.

3. Modules 4-5: Identifying themes, key ideas, and supporting details while distinguishing between explicit and implicit information.
4. Module 6: Evaluating a writer's opinions, distinguishing between facts and opinions, and assessing relevant and irrelevant facts.
5. Module 7: Inferring meaning, recognizing generalizations, and distinguishing between acceptable and hasty generalizations.
6. Modules 8-9: Applying critical reading skills to real-world economic and financial texts, analyzing international investment and financial crises.

Each module consists of structured learning activities designed to help you gradually develop your critical reading skills.

How Should You Study This Course?

Since this course is designed for self-learning, you have the flexibility to study at your own pace. However, to get the most out of it, keep these study tips in mind:

1. Read Actively – Don't just read the texts; highlight key points, take notes, and ask questions about what you read.
2. Complete Every Activity – Engage in discussions, attempt all exercises, and reflect on the questions provided in each module.
3. Use Reading Strategies – Apply the techniques taught in each module, such as identifying key ideas, making inferences, and analyzing arguments.
4. Practice Regularly – The more you analyze texts, the more confident you'll become in critical reading.
5. Test Yourself – Take advantage of the formative tests to check your understanding before moving on to the next module.
6. Think Beyond the Text – Consider the cultural, social, and contextual factors that influence how texts are written and understood.

Becoming a critical reader is not just about understanding words—it's about learning to think deeply, ask questions, and form your own interpretations. With every module, you'll strengthen your ability to evaluate texts and become a more independent thinker as well as a more prepared teacher of English.

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think.” – Albert Einstein

Competency Map

Critical Reading/SPBI4106/3 Credit Units

