

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **PHIL-202**

### **Critical Thinking and Creative Problem Solving**

**3 Semester Hours**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

Students will study ideas designed to help them improve their thinking skills of thinking critically, reasoning clearly, using language precisely, and creatively solving problems. The importance of solid evidence and logical reasoning will be studied in a variety of contexts. Emphasis will also be on applying thinking skills to everyday practical problems, academic problems, personal problems, and social problems. Primary and secondary sources will be used from newspapers, books, television, and other media. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate previously unseen secondary sources.
2. Critically evaluate information found in the mass media.
3. Apply the five steps of creative problem solving to solve problems.
4. Brainstorm many ideas.
5. Count squares accurately.
6. Solve problems when there is one right answer.
7. Draw conclusions from both inductive and deductive reasoning.
8. Apply thinking skills to problems in daily living and the mass media.
9. Describe his/her own thinking processes (metacognitive thinking).
10. Actively function in small groups.
11. Keep an Idea Notebook to include reflections on his/her own thinking.
12. Become more effective when managing his/her study time.

This is not a traditional class. There are very few lectures and little emphasis on memorizing. However, there is heavy emphasis on developing and improving thinking skills which are useful in college and everyday life. Effective thinking takes time to develop.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Critical Thinking
- II. Problem Solving
- III. Creativity
- IV. Logic
- V. Counting Squares
- VI. Propaganda Techniques
- VII. Persuasions in the Mass Media and Textbooks
- VIII. Games and Puzzle
- IX. Careful Thinking
- X. Time Management and Avoiding Procrastination
- XI. Metacognition

## XII. Learning to Learn

### **Course Requirements**

1. Class attendance is required. Excessive absences will result in less learning and a lower grade.
2. Being very active in class is important for success in this class.
3. Homework will be assigned and is due every week.
4. An Idea Notebook is required with entries due each week. These entries deal with the student's reactions, reflections, and applications of class and homework leanings.
5. The grading system will be described the first week of the course.
6. In general, meeting course requirements earns a B. To earn an "A" grade requires a special project which is designed by the student with the instructor's help.

### **Other Course Information**

This course qualifies as an Arts & Sciences and Humanities elective.