

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 1710
Course Title: The Art of Thinking in the Hong Kong Context
Course Offered in: Fall 2025
Course Instructor: Dr. Sai Lok NAM
TA: Taylor Chun Hong LAU

Course Description

This course aims to provide a basic introduction to the art of thinking. The focus of this course is on methodology. Students will be equipped with critical tools for the analysis of arguments. Moreover, special attention will be given to the application of such tools to the practical affairs of everyday life.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

1	Explain and apply specialized methodological terminology
2	Evaluate the validity of standard logical arguments
3	Identify common persuasive stratagems that cannot withstand logical scrutiny and demonstrate how they weaken the arguments that employ them
4	Analyze and construct arguments, employing the techniques of formal and informal methods of reasoning as appropriate, together with an ability to recognize any relevant fallacies

Assessment and Grading

Students will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics are provided on Canvas outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Planned Assessment Tasks

Assessment Task	Mapped ILOs	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)
Quizzes	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4	2 x 25%
Critical Essay	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4	25%
ePortfolio	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4	25%

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Course Outline

Module	Topics
1	Introduction: Critical Thinking & Creative Thinking 批判思考與創意思維
2	Logico-linguistic Analysis 語理分析 2.1. Classification of Questions 問題分類 2.2. The Pitfalls of Language 語言的陷阱
3	Definition and Meaning 定義與意義 3.1. Definition 定義 3.2. Meaning Criterion 意義判準 3.3. A/S Distinction 析合區分
4	Symbolic Logic 符號邏輯 4.1. Validity and Logical Forms 對確性與論證形式 4.2. Truth-table 真值表 4.3. Reductio ad Absurdum 歸謬法
5	Categorical Syllogisms 定言三斷論 5.1. Categorical Proposition 定言命題 5.2. The Square of Opposition 四角對立表 5.3. Rules Methods 檢驗規則 5.4. Venn Diagrams 范恩圖解法
6	Classification of Fallacies 謬誤分類

Readings

1. Irving M. Copi, Introduction to Logic (15th edition), 2018. (Selected Chapters only)
2. 《語理分析的思考方法》，李天命著，2016。

Competencies

Students are expected to develop the following competencies upon completion of this course:

1. Language meaning
2. Lifelong learning
3. Application of critical thinking
4. Civic engagement

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Course AI Policy

Students may use generative AI tools to assist with gathering information and improving the clarity and conciseness of their writing.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.