

## **Psychology 103H**

### ***Honors Critical Thinking and Psychology***

*3 units; 3 hours lecture*

*Recommended Preparation: English 1A or English 1AH with a minimum grade of C*

*Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC*

This honors course, intended for students in the Honors Transfer Program, focuses on the development of critical thinking skills related to psychology. In addition to learning basic skills of logic, students will also learn about the logic of the scientific method and the common errors of human cognition that impede critical thinking. Emphasis is placed on the application of critical thinking skills to writing effective arguments, analyzing the writings of others, and understanding contemporary controversies in psychology.

Note: Students may take either Psychology 103 or Psychology 103H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Differentiate between the characteristics of critical and usual thinking.
2. Identify and analyze the structure and components of arguments.
3. Compose and evaluate arguments, applying critical thinking skills.
4. Differentiate between deductive and inductive arguments, and evaluate various forms of each.
5. Describe the components of credibility and assess the credibility of sources and claims.
6. Recognize logical fallacies and other rhetorical devices, and distinguish between fallacious, non-argumentative, and argumentative reasoning in persuasion.
7. Describe the hallmark characteristics of the scientific method and contrast it with other forms of inquiry.
8. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of various research designs in psychology.
9. Evaluate issues of causal inference by differentiating between correlation and causation.
10. Analyze the influence of language ambiguity, vagueness, and other linguistic factors on reasoning.
11. Identify characteristics of human cognition that interfere with critical thinking.
12. Use critical thinking skills to assess controversial issues in psychology.
13. Conduct scholarly research independently to enrich multiple reading and writing tasks.

### **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

#### **1. Logic of the Scientific Method**

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to describe the hallmark characteristics of the scientific method and contrast it with other forms of inquiry.

#### **2. Fundamental Principles**

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to differentiate and compare fundamental critical thinking concepts (e.g., premises, conclusions, and qualifiers; inductive versus deductive, valid versus sound arguments).

#### **3. Everyday Application**

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to apply principles of critical thinking (e.g., logical fallacies, rhetorical devices) in their daily decision-making (product purchase, school selection, medical treatment).

**ADA Statement:**

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

**Student Code of Conduct**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

**Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530**

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>