



Course **BIS3320-091**
The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry

Professor David A. Wright
Term Summer 2022
Class Meetings Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 AM - 12:45 PM, RM: HH2.502
Office Hours 1/2-hour before class meetings and by request.

Contact Information

Email Address wright@utdallas.edu

Contact by phone Online Teams phone number: **972-883-2024**
Otherwise, send an email message to wright@utdallas.edu with a preferred time (9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) to talk. Call arrangements will be considered and confirmed via a reply email message. Once confirmed, students will send a confirmation with their telephone number. Video conference conversations may be arranged by request before or after class times.

Communication This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools, such as regular email and a web conferencing tool (MS Teams), are also used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools. **Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.**

Server Unavailability & Technical Difficulties The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system for all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time-sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

General Course Information

Course Description BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester hours) Major core course designed to enhance the student's critical thinking and reasoning in order to understand and utilize the methodology of scholarly pursuits. To be taken during the first twelve hours as a junior in the Interdisciplinary Studies program on a letter grade only. ****This is the upper-level writing requirement for all IS majors.**

- Learning Outcomes**
1. Students will be able to locate primary sources (6-8 per paper) and evaluate the usefulness of each source based on the criteria discussed in class.
 2. Students will be able to paraphrase the findings of studies concisely and accurately document sources according to the guidelines set forth by the APA style guidelines. See: <http://www.easybib.com/reference/guide/apa/general>
 3. Students will be able to develop a thesis statement and write a paper that assesses the scientific evidence that supports their claims.
 4. Students will be able to describe the differences and similarities between opinions, philosophical ideas, and scientific facts and/or theories.

Required Materials Assigned eBook: *Critical Thinking in a New Information Age*
 Author: David A. Wright
 Publication Date: December 2019, ISBN: 978-1-7924-0855-7
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See: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/critical-thinking-new-information-age-nature-intellectual-inquiry>

The textbook can be ordered online or purchased at the UT Dallas Bookstore.

<https://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore>

Additional content for study includes supplemental documents, and PPT presentations provided online at <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>.

Technical Requirements In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and online chat service.

Course Meetings & Assignments Calendar

July 5	Critical Thinking textbook: Introduction, What is an Intellectual, Categories of Knowledge, Philosophy as the Foundation, Thinking Scientifically, Comparing Ways of Knowing; Chapters 1 – 5
July 10 (M)	<i>Last day to drop without a "W."</i>
July 10	Critical Thinking textbook: Introduction, What is an Intellectual, Categories of Knowledge, Philosophy as the Foundation, Thinking Scientifically, Comparing Ways of Knowing; Chapters 1 – 5; Set 1, Introduction, Chapters 1-5 Topics for Discussion Worksheets Due.
July 12	Critical Thinking textbook: Logical Fallacies & Cognitive Biases, Chapters 6 & 7 Set 2, Chapter 6 Topics for Discussion Worksheet Due; Term Paper Proposal Due (See form)
July 17	Critical Thinking textbook: Logical Fallacies & Cognitive Biases, Chapters 6 & 7 Set 3, Cognitive Biases, Chapter 7 Topics for Discussion Worksheets Due
July 19	Online Mid-term Exam; available for 24 hours, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 8:30 a.m. the next day. No on-campus class meeting.

TBD	Mid-Term Grades Available Online
July 24	Critical Thinking textbook: <i>Chapter 8, The Demarcation Problem: Pseudo Science & Chapter 9, The Demarcation Problem: Quasi Science</i> ; Logic Project Due
July 26	Critical Thinking textbook: <i>Chapter 8, The Demarcation Problem: Pseudo Science & Chapter 9, The Demarcation Problem: Quasi Science</i> ; Set 4, The Demarcation Problem, Chapters 8 & 9 Topics for Discussion Worksheets Due. Optional term paper draft due via email.
July 31	Critical Thinking textbook: Chapters 10, What is Critical Thinking, & Chapter 11, Conspiracy Theories
August 2	Critical Thinking textbook: Chapters 10, What is Critical Thinking, & Chapter 11, Conspiracy Theories; Set 5 Critical Thinking & Conspiracy Theories, Chapters 10 & 11 Topics for Discussion Worksheets Due.
August 7	Critical Thinking textbook: Chapter 12; No Topics for Discussion for Chapter 12; Term Paper Due.
August 9	Online Final Exam; available for 24 hours, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 8:30 a.m. the next day. No on-campus class meeting.
August 15 (M)	Grades are due and viewable online.

Submission Requirements All written assignments must be emailed to wright@utdallas.edu by midnight on the date due. For example, if due Monday at midnight, this means one minute past 11:59 PM on Monday. Without prior permission, late work will not be accepted. No hard copies will be accepted. Use only your UTD email address to send assignments. Otherwise, the mail server might block your email address, and your work may not be received by the due date. To ensure your email has been received, set the "Receipt Requested" function in your email send options. Otherwise, email messages will not be acknowledged as received. Email your essay files as an attached MSWord (.docx) or Google doc. No other file format will be accepted, such as a PDF, TXT, or Microsoft One Note. **Only send one attached assignment per email, properly identified in the email's subject line and attachment's file name.**

When emailing an assignment, the subject line of your email and the filename of your attached document must have the following same formats, or your work will not be accepted:

"Student's Last Name - BIS3320-091 - Assignment Name"

Example of a subject line of an email: "Wright - BIS3320-091 - Logic Project"

Example of a document filename attached to an email: "Wright - BIS3320-091 - Logic Project.docx"

In the case of more than one student with the same last name, students must include their first name initial following their last name: **Smith R - BIS3320-091 - Set 1 Topics**

Grading Criteria The following academic essay standards must be met. Grading will assess how well students recall and comprehend course content in an online exam format and by writing essays. Exams are "open-book" and available for 24 hours. Essays will be graded on the criteria of 1) proper email and attached file labeling, 2) adherence to the assignment, 3) essay structure (see below), 4) being a well-reasoned argument with properly cited evidence, 5) spelling and grammar, and 6) properly using the APA Style. See "Attendance" for additional grading implications.

Academic Essay Style Writing assignments must be in the APA academic essay style and contain a title page, abstract, body copy with properly cited references, page numbers, and a references page. See the eLearning platform for sample essays in APA style. The essay content must have (1) a thesis introducing the topic and the position to be taken, along with an indication of the relevant evidence to be considered in defense of the thesis; (2) a middle or argument part which presents well-reasoned arguments and cites evidence in support of the thesis; (3) and a conclusion that affirmatively summarizes and confirms the thesis as being supported by the evidence.

Students must avoid vagueness, not use superlatives, and provide properly cited sources and quotes as evidence to support claims rather than firmly held personal opinions or beliefs. All essays are to be written in English (American) as critical evaluations rather than in the familiar report form. Critical evaluation involves the assessment of an author's intent, formal stylistic considerations, affective content, kind of evidence (empirical, scientific, historical, quantitative, statistical, testimonial, anecdotal, etc.) presented, and the logical or reasoning processes employed. The personal pronouns (I, we, you, etc.) referring to the writer or reader of the essay are not to be used in an academic essay. All contractions (it's, isn't, didn't, wasn't., etc.) should be spelled out (it is, is not, did not, was not, etc.).

Essays must use proper academic (APA) style.

See: <http://www.easybib.com/reference/guide/apa/general>

Properly cited primary and secondary source materials must be used. Proper grammar is required. Students are urged to use a computer with a word processing program, spell-check functions, and a grammar utility, such as Grammarly (<https://www.grammarly.com>). Essays must be original work for this course and not written for another course. **Plagiarism is expressly forbidden.** If plagiarism is suspected, an essay may be digitally submitted to an online service that compares content against a database of past coursework, similar content, and outside sources.

The **Writing Center** (MC 3.610) provides undergraduate students with constructive feedback and writing support through one-on-one tutoring sessions. Email: writingcenter@utdallas.edu

See: <https://studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/programs/writing-center/>

- Assignments**
- 1. Topics for Discussion** worksheets found on <https://elearning.utdallas.edu> must be completed and turned in on the assigned due dates. **Topics for Discussion worksheets received past the due date will not be accepted.** The Topics for Discussion are intended to encourage thought about course and textbook content, and responses may be reviewed in class. These will not be given a letter grade but will be assessed as acceptable or unacceptable. Each set of chapters for the Topics for Discussion, (**Set 1) Introduction, Chapters 1-5; (Set 2) Chapter 6; (Set 3) Chapter 7; (Set 4) Chapters 8 & 9; and (Set 5) Chapters 10 & 11**, if acceptable, will count 2 points each toward the final grade. Students must provide original, short, and appropriate responses to each and all discussion topics. **Responses must be at least four complete sentences. Longer responses are encouraged. Bullet points may not be used. Students must include at least one quote from the textbook with each topic, but the content must not be exclusively copied from the textbook, which is to say topics must also be discussed in the student's own words.** Partial completion or unacceptable responses will result in no points. **All topics for Discussion must be completed and found acceptable to earn a final grade of A or better in the course.** The attached file must be labeled as, for example, **Last Name - BIS3320-091 - Set 1 Topics**
 - 2. Logic Project:** Write a critical essay that takes an assigned logical fallacy from Chapter 6 and finds a "real world" and publicly accessible example of someone committing the fallacy. **The fallacy example must not be any cited in the textbook.** You must describe the fallacy by referring to textbook definitions and descriptions, use quotes, and cite sources so that anyone could verify your claim that the statements made by your source constitute a logical fallacy. Be careful not to take your source out of context, leaving out information that might refute your claim that an assertion is a logical fallacy. Good sources to consider can be found in politics, law, pseudo-scientific theories, conspiracy theories, advertisements, alternative medical practices, and social commentary expressed through various public media outlets. If a student is dissatisfied with their logic project grade, they may rewrite their essay. A proper academic essay (APA) style must be used. See: <http://www.easybib.com/reference/guide/apa/general>
 - 3. The Mid-term Exam is an online examination covering lectures, supplemental information (PPTs) textbook introduction, and chapters 1 – 7. The Mid-term Examination will be available online for 24 hours. Mid-term exam grades are final, and no make-up work will be accepted to replace the Mid-term Exam grade. No make-up exam will be offered for students missing the exam.**

4. Term Paper Assignment: Write an 8-page (recommended) academic essay that critically evaluates whether a topic's claim has a valid scientific basis and is supported by the kind and quality of arguments and evidence being presented. Relate the topic to a definition of science as developed in class. The topic must make a claim(s) to being scientific and not be a topic solely a matter of ethics, religion, economics, politics, or law. Students are encouraged to consider topics of fringe, quasi, or pseudoscience. Choosing a topic that's already accepted as having a well-established scientific basis misses the point of the assignment. **No topic mentioned or discussed in the assigned textbook may be used.** Possible topics will be discussed. A well-developed topic must be submitted using the Term paper Proposal Form by the due date, including primary and secondary sources and the names of those involved, for approval and will constitute 5 points toward the total grade. Late Term Paper Proposal Form topics will not receive these 5 points. The 8-page recommended length **does not** include the title page, abstract, or references pages. A proper academic essay (APA) style must be used. See: <http://www.easybib.com/reference/guide/apa/general>

5. The Final Exam is an online examination, that will be comprehensive and available for 24 hours.

Grading Grading is based on earning 100 points. Grades can be reviewed at <https://elearning.utdallas.edu/>

Discussion Topics:	10 points - 2 points each X5, for a total of 10 points.
Logic Project:	20 points
Mid-term:	20 points
Term Paper Proposal:	5 points
Term Paper:	25 points
Final Exam:	20 points

Point Score to Letter Grade Equivalences

Grades will be rounded up to the next highest letter grade when there is a fractional amount between the current score and the next higher letter grade in the range. For example, a 97.5 average becomes a "98" or A+ mid-term or final grade, or an 83.3 average becomes an "84" or B mid-term or final grade.

98-100	A+	77-79	C+
94-97	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	63-65	D
84-86	B	60-62	D-
80-83	B-	< 60	F

Missed Assignment Deadlines

By prior permission only. Missed deadlines will result in a 10-point deduction from the assignment's final grade. In the case of the Discussion Topics, a missed deadline will result in no points being awarded.

Class Attendance & Participation

Regular attendance is required. **Without a satisfactory explanation, an unexcused absence from more than two classes begins a deduction of 5 points from the final grade for every subsequent class missed.** A class role will be provided for student signature during each on-campus class and constitute the only evidence of attendance. Classes will be recorded, but students may not substitute watching the class online or the recording for in-person attendance.

Rules & Regulations

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. **It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities.** General information on student conduct and discipline is contained here: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Student AccessAbility **UT Dallas is committed to ensuring and maintaining an environment that guarantees students with disabilities full access to educational programs. Students who have registered and are eligible to receive accommodations will provide an accommodation letter on OSA letterhead to their course instructor.**

It is the policy and practice of The University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow one-week advance notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion. OSA is located in the Administration Building, suite 2.224. They can be reached by phone at 972- 883-2098 or email at studentaccess@utdallas.edu.

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those, not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings **Classes will be recorded with captions turned on and made available to students on the eLearning website.** To play a class recording, highlight the URL and copy and paste the URL into the browser's address bar. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience and may not be used without permission to replace class attendance. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course.

Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those, not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Materials The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. **Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation.** Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Terms & Conditions **This Syllabus is for informational purposes only, does not constitute a contract, and may only change at the sole discretion of the lecturer.** Any and all email correspondence, exams, recordings with or without captions of course lectures, and provided supplemental content are the sole properties of the lecturer, may be copyrighted, and may not be published or distributed in any form whatsoever without written consent from the lecturer.