

HONORS 101A: CRITICAL THINKING
Critical Consumption
CSUF—FALL 2004
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Office: Humanities 311A Telephone: (714) 278-3208
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1pm

Required Texts:

Moore/Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 7th ed. (McGraw-Hill 2004)
Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* (Perennial 2002)

Course Description:

Fast food—have you ever wondered what goes into it, literally or socially? If so, this course will give you a chance to investigate this fundamental part of our culture in a critical and objective manner. In considering the fast food industry as the theme of this course, we will first study some techniques for this or any problematic issue. Principally, we will look at arguments in their various forms along with ways of evaluating them with the aim of applying them to the course theme. By the end of the course, students should have a strong sense of the relevance of critical thinking to these issues and everyday practice in general.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should have met the following objectives:

- a) Familiarity with the meaning and purpose of critical thinking.
- b) Be able to distinguish between inductive and deductive arguments.
- c) Be able to evaluate both types of arguments.
- d) Be able to apply reasoning to current issues.

Course Requirements:

- 1) **Exams:** There will be two exams in the course. These may only be made up in case of emergency and by notifying the instructor within 24 hours. Exams must be made up within ten days.
- 2) **Short Papers:** Two short papers (2-3 pages each) are required—the first on a chapter in *Fast Food Nation*; the second on one of the plenary sessions.
- 3) **Introductory Oral Presentation:** This presentation consists of a written outline and a 3-4 minute oral presentation. The topic will be chosen from *Fast Food Nation*.
- 4) **Final Project:** This project consists of a written outline and a 7-10 minute persuasive presentation on a topic from *Fast Food Nation*.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation	20 points (10%)
Exam	50 points (25%)
Quiz	20 points (10%)
Short Papers (2)	20 points each (20%)
Introductory Oral Presentation	20 points (10%)
Final Project	50 points (25%)
Total	200 points

Grades will be earned according to the following breakdown:

180-200	A
160-179	B
140-159	C
120-139	D

CALENDAR

Week of:

Aug.	23	Course Introduction
	30	<i>Critical Thinking</i> (CT) Ch 1; Plenary Session (Wed, H-123)
Sept.	6	NO CLASS (Mon); CT Ch 2
	13	<i>Fast Food Nation</i> (FFN) Part 1
	20	CT Ch 7, 9
	27	CT Ch 9 (cont); First Paper Due
Oct.	4	CT Ch 9 (cont)
	11	EXAM (Mon); CT Ch 10
	18	FFN Part 2
	25	Plenary Session (Mon, H-123)
Nov.	1	Introductory Oral Presentations
	8	Plenary Session (or next week, H-123); CT Ch 5
	15	CT Ch 6; Quiz (Wed)
	24	FALL RECESS
Dec.	1	FFN Epilogue (Mon); Individual meetings with instructor (Wed)
	8	Final Project Presentations

Final Project Presentations, 5-6:50pm