

CRITICAL THINKING (CRIT)

CRIT 501 Introduction to Critical Inquiry (4 Credits)

Introduction to Critical Inquiry provides the foundation for an informed and meaningful college experience through the cultivation of intellectual curiosity. Through the study of media and popular culture and the completion of short writing assignments, students learn how to develop and scale a personally-motivated research question, refine their topic, determine effective search strategies for finding credible and appropriate information, and learning to recognize bias and logical fallacies. Important aspects of the research process are learning how to analyze different types of argument and to evaluate information sources from a variety of venues. Critical Inquiry fosters the self-awareness and intellectual perspective that are the hallmarks of well-educated persons and lifelong, engaged students in the twenty-first century.

Prerequisite(s): ENG 500 The Writing Process.

CRIT 602 Advanced Critical Analysis and Strategic Thinking (4 Credits)

What is the link between an academic degree and one's career or professional development? In this course, students explore trends in their field of study and connect them to their academic and professional context. Students synthesize and present their research findings through a variety of formal and informal written communication formats. This course reinforces critical analysis and strategic thinking skills for students developing their course of study, seeking professional advancement, or preparing for future graduate study. **PREREQUISITES:** ENG 500 The Writing Process with a grade of C AND CRIT 501 Introduction to Critical Inquiry with a grade of C, or equivalents. Students with a regionally-accredited associate degree do not have to take either ENG 500 or CRIT 501 as prerequisites for CRIT 602.

CRIT 603 Critical Inquiry in Prior Learning Assessment (4 Credits)

This course is designed for adults who have identified prior experiential learning equivalent to outstanding degree requirements through a systematic process of goal-setting and self-assessment in the context of degree-planning. Students use the conceptual framework of critical inquiry to demonstrate this learning in an eportfolio. For each course-equivalent credit request, the portfolio will identify the context for the student's learning in the subject matter, trace the progression of the learning over time, and explain how the learning is equivalent to a Granite State College degree requirement. The student will demonstrate mastery of each learning outcome for the credit request and integrate the learning outcomes in a relevant personal case study in decision-making. Two credit requests that meet the criteria to be submitted to Academic Affairs for evaluation are required to pass CRIT 603.

Prerequisite(s): Full admission into a GSC degree program, CRIT 602 Advanced Critical Analysis and Strategic Thinking and an approved prior learning plan. **NOTE:** Students within 16 credits of their projected degree completion date are not eligible to take CRIT 603.