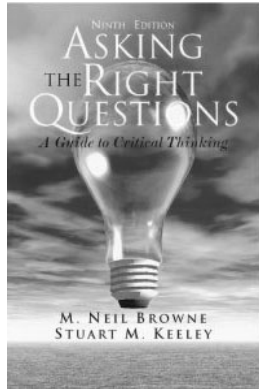


### GISAT 160 Problem Solving Approaches in Science and Technology

Gen-ed Cluster One, Critical Thinking

Meets: M/W/F 11:15 - 12:05

Room: M/W in ISAT/CS 150 (classroom), F in ISAT/CS 250 (Mac Lab)



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#### Cluster One Critical Thinking Objectives:

Evaluate claims in terms of clarity, credibility, reliability, and accuracy;

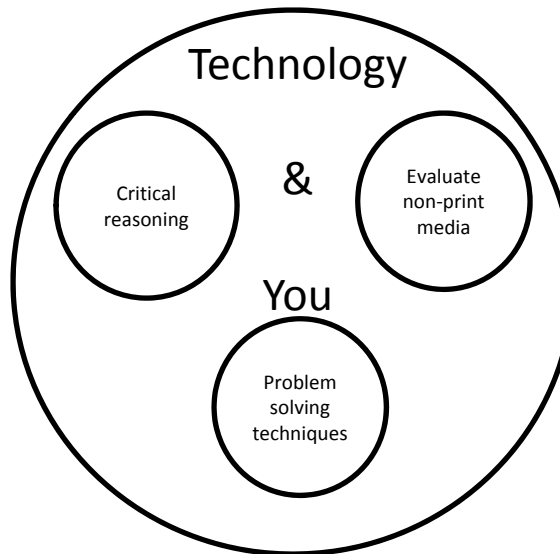
Demonstrate the ability to identify, analyze and generate claims, arguments, and positions;

Identify and evaluate theses and conclusions, stated and unstated assumptions and supporting evidence and arguments; and

Apply these skills to one's own work and the work of others.

**Inclement weather:** See the Blackboard announcements page for makeup information.

**Course Description:** This course examines issues in modern science and technology as a means to introduce, develop, and enhance critical thinking and problem solving skills. Our focus will be on issues dealing with computing and computing technologies and their impact on society. Current scientific and technological research and applications will be introduced to reinforce problem solving, instruction in systems thinking, and critical inquiry. The course provides opportunities for using both oral and written communication in a variety of learning activities.



**Grading:** In-class attendance and participation 15%  
Assignments

Minor – class prep – 15%

Major – experiment and reflect – 10%

Free choice – outside speakers – 10% (2% each)

Research activity 10%

Mid term exam 20%

Final exam 20%

**See [blackboard.jmu.edu](http://blackboard.jmu.edu) for the full syllabus and schedule**

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Web with Fall 2010 schedule: [users.cs.jmu.edu/harrisnl](http://users.cs.jmu.edu/harrisnl)

**Honor Code:** All work turned in for credit must adhere to the JMU honor code provisions. Most work done outside of class will be individual assignments. Assignments on which you may collaborate with others will be identified as such in the assignment. Proper citation of references is required on all written work. If you have any question about application of the honor code to work in this class, please see the instructor before turning such work in for credit.

**Attendance:** Simple, come to class. You cannot learn to think critically without engaging with others. Attendance is taken and is mandatory. Excused absences include religious observance and JMU sanctioned activities, such as music performance, sports competitions, academic competitions if the absence is identified IN ADVANCE of the absence.

GISAT 160  
Critical Thinking  
1 Page Syllabus