

Critical Thinking Assessment Project, SPRING 2008
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International Studies

The syllabus contains the following section on course goals.

- 1) International studies content. Students will be able to
 - a. relate the details of a series of global issues and problems in the modern world, and
 - b. identify the principal actors, their positions and the conflicts among them for each case.
- 2) Critical thinking. For each case, students will be able to
 - a. recognize the material and ideological interests that serve each actor's policy position,
 - b. compare the relative validity, strengths and weaknesses of the actors' respective positions,
 - c. criticize the blameworthy and praise the praiseworthy,
 - d. place the issue within its appropriate contexts, and
 - e. develop their own conclusions and informed opinions about how to solve the problem.
- 3) Social Science writing. Students will be able to
 - a. write clearly about all of the above, with special attention to
 - i. designing strong paragraphs,
 - ii. organizing arguments,
 - iii. backing claims with strong argumentation and evidence,
 - iv. identifying and responding to critics, and
 - v. using citations properly.