



School or Arts and Sciences

AMIR 1001: Thinking, Learning, and Communicating in Contemporary Society/Online

Semester: Fall Semester

Location: Online

Instructor: Professor Chekesha Johnson

Course Number: AMIR 1001

Meeting Days/Time: Online

Course Registration Number: 80095

Final Test Date: December 10, 2025

Course Start Date: August 18, 2025

Instructor Contact Information:

Office Location: Online

Office Telephone: 678-870-4030

Email: cjohnson2@atlm.view.usg.edu (Brightspace/D2L email only)

Please use my Brightspace/D2L email addresses listed above and not my AMSC email for all AMIR 1001 correspondence. Any changes to the schedule will be posted in D2L/Brightspace.

Office Hours: Remote and by appointment (Mon. 7-8pm)

Microsoft Teams Office Hours Meeting ID: 259 141 019 596 4

Passcode: Da33oA38

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2VIYjJiMTQtNTY0MS00YjhjLTlmZGltMzljZDBmNGI1YjIw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2290c7c3a3-fdf7-4a91-b380-6ec16e70b3b5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225a19b013-e708-409a-9457-61fac0087cb1%22%7d

Microsoft Teams Office Hours- Dial in By Phone

[+1 470-481-4456](tel:+14704814456),161569941# United States, Atlanta

Phone conference ID: 161 569 941#

****Note:** My external work e-mail address is for emergencies only. I will not answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via my work external e-mail so please use it for emergencies only. All communication to me should come from your D2L/Brightspace email address to me via D2L/Brightspace.*

Response Time: Unless you are notified otherwise, I will work to respond to all student questions and emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekend.

Course Delivery Method:

This section of AMIR 1001 is an online class.

Important Dates

- ❑ Class Begin: **August 18, 2025**
- ❑ Holiday (College Closed): **September 1, 2025**
- ❑ Fall 2025 Graduation Application Due: **September 15, 2025 (Priority)**
- ❑ Mid- Term Exam: **October 4-9 2025**
- ❑ Early Advisement for Spring 2026: **October 13, 2025**
- ❑ Mid-Term Grading Period: **October 14, 2025**
- ❑ Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty Grade of “W”: **October 20, 2025**
- ❑ Holiday (College Closed) **November 27-28th, 2025**
- ❑ Last Day of Class: **December 6, 2025**
- ❑ Final Exam: **December 9-11, 2025**

Please read this syllabus carefully and check with the instructor if you have any questions. Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus.

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours 4

Prerequisite(s) Exit or exemption from Learning Support Reading and English

Co-requisite(s) none

Course Description This course cultivates habits that strengthen critical thinking, reading, and speaking and fosters an increased understanding of the individual's role and responsibility in the learning process. Using interdisciplinary themes and various instructional technologies, students examine and convey the logic of their thinking in writing and oral form.

Orienting Question: How does my institution help me navigate the world?

Career Ready Competencies

- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork
- Time Management

Core IMPACTS Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems related to academic priorities at their institution.

Program Learning Outcomes and Objectives

The student will:

1. Employ deductive and inductive reasoning to analyze and evaluate the validity of arguments in terms of the manner in which arguments are constructed.
2. Differentiate between valid backing and logical fallacies in support of arguments.
3. Develop their written and oral communication skills.
4. Construct valid arguments.

Course Delivery Method

This course is 100% lecture. Instruction will take the form of lectures via PowerPoint, supplemental readings, and relevant video presentations. Chapter readings from the assigned textbook is mandatory. All homework and assignments due should be posted in D2L/Brightspace. Please be advised that the syllabus serves as a general guide. Deviations may occur as needed. Students will be notified of modifications.

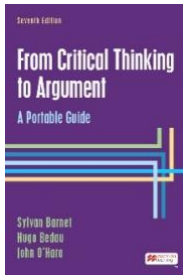
Required Textbooks and Additional Materials

AMSC bookstore is 100% online. All AMSC classes use Day1 Ready Textbooks and Materials. For further instructions and information on Day 1 Ready, visit:

<https://atlm.textbooktech.com/pages/inclusive-access>

Required text for AMIR 1001 is a Day1 Ready Access eTextbook that can be accessed via D2L once you “opt in” into the class. If you decide to “opt out” you are responsible for acquiring your own textbook.

Barnet, S., Bedau, H. A., & OHara, J. (2023). *From critical thinking to argument: a portable guide* (Seventh ed.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.



Although this is a required text, readings from additional sources will also be assigned.

Chapters Covered

The following chapters will be covered:

From Critical Thinking to Argument: A Portable Guide

- Chapter 1: Critical Thinking
- Chapter 2: Critical Reading: Getting Started
- Chapter 3: Understanding Rhetorical Appeals
- Chapter 4: Identifying Procedures in Argument
- Chapter 5: Visual Rhetoric: Thinking about Images as Arguments
- Chapter 6: Writing an Analysis of an Argument
- Chapter 7: Developing an Argument of Your Own
- Chapter 8: Using Sources
- Chapter 9: A Philosopher's View: The Toulmin Model
- Chapter 10: A Logician's View: Deduction, Induction, and Fallacies
- Chapter 11: A Psychologist's View: Rogerian Argument

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***Weekly readings and assignments open on Monday and are due each Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

Syllabus Quiz, Weekly Discussion Postings, and Class Participation and Attendance	150 Points
Fact Finding Assignment	100 points
<i>Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice (x4)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Journals and Current Events • AI Critical Thinking Projects • Visual Analysis • Peer-Reviewed Journal Review/Reading 	400 points
Media Project	100 points
Test 1 – Midterm Exam	100 points
PLO Assessment	50 points
Test 2 – Final Exam	100 points

Other Materials and Requirements

Students must open AND maintain an Atlanta Metropolitan State College Email account.

Technical Requirements, Login, and Contact Information:

<http://www.atlm.edu/online-programs/first-step.aspx>

The Center for Academic Advising & Student Success

<http://www.atlm.edu/academics/academic-advising.aspx>

Galileo: <http://www.galileo.usg.edu/scholar/atlm/subjects/>

Grading Scale:

Grades are based on the total number of points earned.

A = 900 – 1000	(90% - 100%)
B = 800 – 899	(80% - 89%)
C = 700 – 799	(70% - 79%)
D = 600 – 699	(60% - 69%)
F = 599 – below	(59% or below)

The student's final grade is based on the total number of points earned out of 1000 points.

Late Policy:

- All assignments due via drop box have a due date and an end date. You are required to submit your work electronically (unless directed otherwise) by the due date. **Students must turn in their assignments via drop box on the due date stated in the syllabus to receive full credit for their assignment. The drop box officially closes 48 hours from the initial due date for any assignments submitted during this time frame after the due date, do not receive full credit. Grade drops a letter grade for every day late.**
 - Assignments submitted **after 11:59** pm on the initial due date are considered LATE and the are subject to a 10 point decrease in of the earned grade.
 - Assignments received 48 hours after the initial due date are subject to a 20 point decrease of the earned grade.
- **LATE QUIZZES and TESTS - Quizzes and tests close at 11:59pm on their given due dates. Assignments completed after 11:59pm on the due date are considered LATE and are subject to a 10 point decrease of the earned. grade.**
- **LATE DISCUSSIONS: Discussions posted after the due date and time will be subject to a 10 point decrease of the earned grade.**

Enrollment Status:

Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the course(s) in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for determining changes, if any, in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing re-instatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.

Attendance Verification (No show)/Reinstatement

Atlanta Metropolitan State College has a "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) policy. This policy is to comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations. Financial Aid recipients at Atlanta Metropolitan State College may become ineligible for funds by not attending class session (per enrolled course). Students who do not complete Mandatory Attendance Assignments and attend class sessions are NOT entitled to keep their financial aid award. The Registrar's Office will notify the students and faculty when the Attendance Verification Period has opened. The established "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) procedure will enable Atlanta Metropolitan State College to adjust financial aid awards before funds are issued to students (thereby eliminating liability for both the College and the student). A student reported as non-attending a course must seek the approval of the instructor in order to be reinstated. Once approved, the student will complete the Reinstatement form and submit it. The Office of Registrar will notify students when course reinstatement process has been completed during Reinstatement Period.

The student can demonstrate compelling reason (s) that have prevented attendance and the instructor believes that there is a strong probability that the student can catch up in the class OR The instructor made an error, and the student was in attendance prior to being dropped.

Computer Hardware & Software Requirements:

One of the challenges many encounter with enrolling in and completing an online course is the accessibility to the required and recommended software and hardware. Different institutions, and even different courses

within the same institution, have varying technology requirements. Check your hardware and software systems to determine its compatibility with the online course you have selected.

Minimum Hardware Recommendations to take Courses:

Brightspace/D2L System Requirement

Internet Connection:

· Ethernet & Wireless Network required

Operating System Requirements

- PC and Mac:
 - Compatible Operating System:
 - Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari

Hardware requirements:

Minimum Technical Specifications for Hardware:

- A processor of 2GHz or faster
- 4GB RAM or greater
- 500 GB of Hard Drive space
- Monitor and video card with a minimum resolution of 1024x768
- Keyboard and mouse

Minimum Technical Specifications for Computer Peripherals:

- Speakers
- Headphones
- Microphone
- Webcam

Software Requirements:

Browser Requirements/Supported Browsers

Compatible Browsers:

- [Apple Safari](https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari) - <https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari> (Mac)
- [Google Chrome](https://www.google.com/chrome/) - <https://www.google.com/chrome/> (Mac or PC)
- [Mozilla Firefox](https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/) - <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/> (Mac or PC)

Application Software

- Microsoft Office 2016 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) (Mac or PC)
- [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) - <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Plug-ins

- [Java](https://www.java.com/en/download/) - <https://www.java.com/en/download/>
- [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) - <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- [Windows Media Player](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=20426) - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=20426>
- [Apple QuickTime](https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime) - <https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime>
- [Microsoft Silverlight](https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default) - <https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default>

Accessibility: Wi-Fi is also available for use in the campus parking lots.

Tutoring Services:

Students improve their self-confidence and increase their chances of excelling in their courses when they utilize their college/university academic support services. The following tutoring services are available to AMSC students:

❖ The AMSC Writing Center is open year-round to support students, staff, and faculty at AMSC. It offers virtual and in-person tutoring for various writing projects, assists at any stage of the writing process, and increases improvement in structure, use of sources, style, grammar, and more. The Writing Center is located in Building 100, Room 211. Students can walk in during hours of operation or schedule an appointment at <https://calendly.com/amscwritingcenter/30min>

❖ [Tutor.com](#) is a virtual space for students to access writing tutors outside of AMSC faculty. Access tutor.com in Brightspace by logging into your course. Next, click the 'Free Tutoring' tab and choose Tutor.com from the dropdown options. Students are granted five (5) hours per semester, and registration is not required. Contact the Center for Student Success and Advising at (404) 756-5690 for assistance.

❖ TutorOcean is a tutorial for students enrolled in STEM courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science. Access TutorOcean and sign up at <https://atlm.tutorocean.com>

American Disability Act (ADA) Statement: *Atlanta Metropolitan College is committed to providing support for all students and making their college experience an enriching opportunity. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Department/Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services, located in the Student Services & Success Center, building 650-Suite 252, oversees the coordination of services for students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Disability Services collaborates with faculty and staff to offer provisions for reasonable accommodations to students who meet the requirements.*

It is the policy and practice of AMSC to make all Web information accessible to students with disabilities. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the course materials for this class, please notify the instructor immediately.

Accommodations cannot be provided until a reasonable accommodation plan is in place. To the greatest extent possible, all college representatives shall observe confidentiality.

Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services:

The Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services operates under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) laws in order to assist in leveling the playing field for students who have disabilities with those who do not.

The amended ADA, otherwise known as ADAAAA defines “disability” as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. If you feel that you have a disability or impairment that may limit your academic functioning, please contact Dr. Dorothy Williams, the Coordinator of Counseling and Accessibility Services at 404-756-4016 or at <https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx>.

The Coordinator of Counseling and Accessibility Services reviews all accommodation requests. In order to receive accommodations, the student's illness or disability must be verified in writing by a physician, psychiatrist, or some other health care provider or specialist. Students choosing to access disability support services should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible after acceptance to AMSC. Please be aware that late notifications may result in complications for establishing accommodations in a timely fashion.

Withdrawal:

Withdrawal from a course is solely the responsibility of the student. Instructors will not initiate student withdrawals. A student who wishes to withdraw from a course **MUST** submit a completed Withdrawal Form (Schedule Reductions Form) to the Registrar's Office before mid-term in order to receive a grade of "W" for the course.

Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the course(s) in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students **MUST** periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for determining changes, if any, in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g. pursuing re-instatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.

Time Commitment:

To successfully complete this course it requires discipline, devoted time, and commitment. A student must arrange his / her schedule to allow for the required time for this course. Expect to spend a minimum of seven (7) to ten (10) hours per week to thoroughly read each chapter and complete the required chapter assignments. Additional time most likely will be required to complete quizzes and exams.

Conduct

Refer to AMSC College Catalog.

Online Attendance and Participation Policy

Being "Present" in class is determined by the student's active attendance and participation in an "academically related activity" which includes actual presence in a virtual class, submission of an assignment, group projects, completion of an exam or quiz and discussion forum posting. Students are required to log into the class regularly.

There are no make-up exams.

Attendance Verification (No Show) Reinstatement: Atlanta Metropolitan State College has a "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) policy. This policy is to comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations. Financial Aid recipients at Atlanta Metropolitan State College may become ineligible for funds by not attending class session (per enrolled course). Students who do not complete Mandatory Attendance Assignments and attend class sessions are NOT entitled to keep their financial aid award. The Registrar's Office will notify the students and faculty when the Attendance Verification Period has opened. The established "No-Show" Reporting (Attendance Verification) procedure will enable Atlanta Metropolitan State College to adjust financial aid awards before funds are issued to students (thereby eliminating liability for both the College and the student). A student reported as non-attending a course must seek the approval of the instructor in order to be reinstated. Once approved, the student will complete the Reinstatement form and submit it. The Office of Registrar will notify students when course reinstatement process has been completed during Reinstatement Period.

The student can demonstrate compelling reason (s) that have prevented attendance and the instructor believes that there is a strong probability that the student can catch up in the class OR The instructor made an error, and the student was in attendance prior to being dropped.

Class Cancellation:

- Procedure regarding long-term emergency closure of the college (attendance policy): In the event of an emergency that forces the college to close for an extended period, students MUST contact the instructor of this class within 48 hours using the contact information (e.g., email address in BrightSpace/D2L) on the syllabus to obtain directions for continuing the course. The instructor will provide directions for the transmission and submission of course assignments and course assessments, including due dates.
- The student is responsible for submitting valid, accurate contact information, including an active AMSC email address to the instructor by the end of the first week of the course. Students can obtain an Atlanta Metropolitan State College Student email address in the Academic Support Center on the third floor of the Library Building.
- If the instructor for the course cannot be reached within the specified period (within 48 hours), the Dean of the School responsible for the course can be reached at the email address posted on the college's website.

Abandoning a Course: Abandoning a course should be avoided at all costs. Abandoning a course instead of following official drop procedures will result in a grade of —F at the end of the course. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete the withdrawal process.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to be fully invested and engaged in their learning. The following guidelines are included to facilitate your course success.

- Participate in this course by following the guidelines of this syllabus and any additional information the instructor provides by email, telephone, discussion forums, etc.
- Please speak with your instructor **in advance** if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing your assignments by the designated due dates. If a medical emergency occurs, you will need to provide a written medical / doctor's notice for the period in which you are unable to participate in class or complete any of the assignments (discussion, case studies, quizzes, exams, etc.). Without a medical / doctor's notice, all assignments missed will be scored as zero.
- Sign-in to Brightspace D2L and / or Courseware to complete assignments regularly.
- Read, study, and complete all assignments by the due dates.
- Monitor Brightspace D2L course calendar.
- Have access to a computer and the Internet. Make certain computer meets the technical requirements for computer course.
- Be courteous, polite and respectful to faculty, staff and fellow students.

For online courses, the instructor will use Brightspace D2L email for all course related correspondence. Check **Brightspace D2L email** as well as **Ginger email daily** to stay abreast of what is going on in class.

Online Discussion Protocol:

- The purpose of the discussion forum is to have interactive online discussions with our class community about specific topics, assignments, or readings.

- Be constructive and positive. You can challenge ideas and course content yet avoid becoming negative online. When you disagree respectfully and politely, you stimulate and encourage great discussion.
- You are expected to conduct yourself in a mature, courteous, and mutually respectful manner.
- Always sign your name.
- Postings should be well written with proper punctuation, spelling and grammar. Avoid the use of all caps or multiple punctuation elements (!!!???). Postings should be a minimum of 3 – 4 sentences.
- Check postings for responses from others and respond in kind.
- Postings should be evenly distributed throughout the week. Avoid making only weekend postings.
- Encourage further discussion by building on current threads.

The instructor may not respond to every post but will be monitoring each discussion. A response may be made to contribute to a discussion, clarify a situation or redirect the conversation.

Academic Honesty:

Only the epitome of professionalism is expected of each student. Cheating or the abetment of cheating is not tolerated. Per the Atlanta Metropolitan State College Catalogue, the Penalties for Academic Misconduct states:

In cases where a student is found guilty of cheating or exhibiting academic misconduct involving an instructor-generated assignment or examination, the instructor may impose a penalty.

Types of penalties may include but are not limited to, the instructor assigning a grade of “F” for the assignment, the instructor not accepting the work, the student being assigned additional work, or the student receiving a grade reduction.

The maximum penalty the instructor may impose is a grade of “F” for the course.

Methods of Assessments:

Problems related to the grading policy for this course or other course management concerns should be first brought to the professor's attention for the course. However, resolving unsettled problems or concerns may be pursued by following the grievance procedures outlined in the AMSC Student Handbook and the Academic Catalog.

Grade turnaround time:

All assignments and assessments will be graded within one week's time. The instructor will provide comments along with grades as necessary for feedback.

Grade Appeals and Student Complaint Policy and Process: For student complaint policy and process, refer to AMSC student catalog. Please follow the Grade Appeals Process outlined in the AMSC Student Catalog.

Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links

I need:	LINK
D2L/BrightSpace Student Orientation	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/Brochure%20-%20Student%20Orientation%20to%20Desire2Learn.pdf
For help with password and other technical support issues	https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/
ADA Accommodations	https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx
Academic Support and Advising	https://www.atlm.edu/academics/CAAS.aspx
To Make a Student Complaint	https://atlm-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid810499?
To Make a Grade Appeal	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Grade%20Appeal%20Brochure.pdf
To Withdraw from a Course	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/Registrars_Office_Forms/Withdrawal%20Form%202018.pdf
To Request a Hardship Withdrawal	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Hardship%20Withdrawal%20Application%20-%20June%202017.pdf
To Know the Campus Carry/HB 280 Policy	https://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information

Disclaimer: Information contained in this syllabus and schedule was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. This syllabus should be considered only a guide for instructor and students, not a formal contract between Atlanta Metropolitan State College and any student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of AMSC, to make changes in course content or instructional techniques.

Degree Plan Relevance and Enrollment Status

Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the courses in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students must periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for determining changes, if any, in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing reinstatement in this course) following the procedures outlined in the AMSC catalog.

Policy Regarding Written Work

This course requires that all work adhere to format guidelines and standards of originality. Please Note: *Turnitin* will be implemented to check for originality and plagiarized work (including recycled papers from other AMSC courses) will **NOT** be accepted. **All assignments must be properly formatted in Microsoft Word and APA format. All documents must be submitted to the designated Dropbox folder via Brightspace (unless directed otherwise).**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Adjustments to the schedule and due date of some assignments are subject to change.

Week 1: Welcome

Introductions, Class Expectations
Review of Course Syllabus and Assignments and Syllabus Quiz
From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 1

Week 2:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapters 1
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 3:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 2
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Fact-Finding Assignment

Week 4:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 3
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 5:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 4
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Media Project

Week 6:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 5
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 7:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 6
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 8:

Assignments Due: Mid Term

Week 9:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 7
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and PLO Assignment

Week 10:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 8
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 11:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 9
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 12:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 9
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 13:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter10

Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 14:

Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter11

Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 15:

Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 16:

Assignments Due: Final Exam

Quizzes/Examinations

There are two tests for this course to evaluate your ability to identify, critique and demonstrate an understanding of reviewed course content, assigned readings and discussions.