ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE

School of Arts and Sciences

AMIR 1001 - Thinking, Learning and Communicating in Contemporary Society ONLINE

> The University System of Georgia (USG) institutions requires all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible.

Semester: Fall 2025
Room Number: Online
Course Number: AMIR 1001
Course Registration Number: 80260-203
Course Start Date: September 8, 2025
Prerequisite(s): No Prerequisites

Campus/Location: Online
Credit Hours: 4
Meeting Days/Times: Online
Instructor: Sharon R Duhart
Final Assessment Date: December 9, 2025

Instructor Contact Information:
Office Location: Bldg. 650, Suite 269
Office Telephone #: 404-756-2746

Work Email: sduhart@atlm.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4 - 5 pm
                Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams Office Hours Meeting ID: 226 720 140 741
Passcode: DR9Q9mC9

Dial in by phone
+1 470-481-4456,,15816565# United States, Atlanta
Phone conference ID: 158 165 65#

*Note: *Please use the internal course e-mail for general correspondence. My work e-mail address is for emergencies only. I cannot answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via my work e-mail so please use it or emergencies only. All assignments should be uploaded to Brightspace/D2L. All communication to the Brightspace/D2L email address.*

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.

<u>**Response Time:**</u> Unless you are notified otherwise, I will work to respond to all student questions and emails within 24-48 hours during the week and within 36 hours during the weekend.

<u>**Course Delivery Method:**</u>   **This section of** *AMIR 1001-201* **is an** *online* **class.**

Important Dates
- Class Begin: **September 8**
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: **October 27**
- Advisement and Registration for Spring 2026: **October 13**
- Mid-Term Grading Period: **October 11-16**
- College Closed: **November 27-28**
- Last Day of Class: **December 6**
- Final Exam: **December 3-8**

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.

## Program Learning Outcomes and Objectives:
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.

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 *e*Textbook 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.
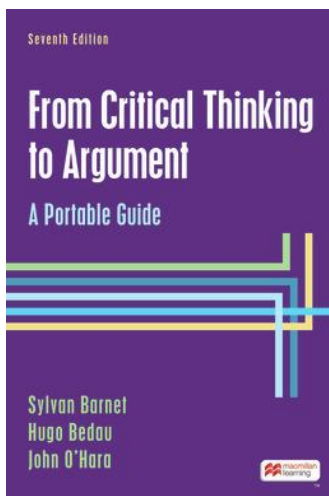
Barnet, Sylvan, Bedau, Hugo & O'Hara, John. (2023*).
Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking to Argument: A Portable Guide for Atlanta Metropolitan State College* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford / St. Martin's.

From Critical Thinking to Argument
(Inclusive Access) eBook, 7e
IA ISBN: 9781319485962

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: Critical Reading: Getting Deeper into Arguments

- Chapter 4: Visual Rhetoric: Thinking about Images as Arguments

- Chapter 5: Writing an Analysis of an Argument

- Chapter 6: Developing an Argument of Your Own

- Chapter 7: Using Sources

- Chapter 9: A Logician's View: Deduction, Induction, and Fallacies

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
Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice (x4) • 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

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

Career Ready Competencies: Critical Thinking, Teamwork, and Time Management

Core IMPACTS Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems related to academic priorities at their institution.

Online Attendance (No Show) Reinstatement: 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.

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.

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 4-5 substantial 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

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 and 2
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 and Midterm

Week 7:
Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 5
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 8:
Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 6
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and PLO Assignment

Week 9:
Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 7
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion

Week 10:
Reading: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 9
Assignments Due: Weekly Discussion and Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 11:
Assignments Due: From Critical Thinking to Argument, Chapter 9
Reading: Weekly Discussion

Week 12:
Assignments Due: Reflection Assignment of Instructors Choice

Week 13:
Assignments Due: Final Exam

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 online courses:
D2L System Requirement
Internet Connection:
· Ethernet & Wireless Network required
Operating System Requirements
- PC and Mac:
    o Compatible Operating System:
    o 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 (Mac)
- Google Chrome - https://www.google.com/chrome/ (Mac or PC)
- Mozilla Firefox - 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/
Plug-ins

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

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

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 wished 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

  o 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. pursing re-instatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog.

Attendance Policy:

  • Attendance and participation weekly discussions are required.
  • Students are required to log into the class regularly.
  • There are no make-up exams.

Time Commitment:

Students can expect to spend 3 hours per week on this course. Consult the course calendar and your instructor to be sure you are on schedule, keeping up with the material and taking quizzes on time.
Expectations for this course as follows:

  • Log in regularly to check messages from your instructor and other students.
  • Check the course calendar, D2L email, and AMSC email regularly.
  • Read, study, and complete all assignments for each lesson by the due date.

Conduct

You are expected to refrain from profanity, crudeness, and slurs of any kind. You are also expected to treat your fellow students and instructor just as you would in the traditional classroom. Proper conduct applies to all forms of communication in the course. The penalty for not complying with these guidelines is removal from the course.

Late Policy:

Late assignments may be graded at the discretion of the Instructor and are subject to a reduce grade.
*Late Assignments: Assignments turned in after the due date and time will be subject to a minimum **10**-point decrease of the earned grade.
*Late Quizzes: Quizzes completed after the due date and time will be subject to a minimum **10**-point decrease of the earned grade.
*Late Discussions: Discussions posted after the due date and time will be subject to a minimum **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.

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 cost. 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.

Academic Honesty:
- Only the epitome of professionalism is expected of each student. Cheating or the abetment of cheating is not tolerated
  - Per page 91-93 of the 2019-2020 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 for the assignment.
    - **The maximum penalty the instructor may impose is a grade of "F" for the course.**

Methods of Assessments: **Each student's final grade** is based on points earned during the semester on examinations, quizzes and assignments, class participation, etc.

Grading Scale:
A = (900 to 1000 points) 90% - 100% of maximum points awarded
B = (800 to 899 points) 80% - 89% of maximum points awarded

C = (700 o 799 points) 70% - 79% of maximum points awarded
D = (600 to 699 points) 60% - 69% of maximum points awarded
F – (599 points and below) Below 60% of maximum points awarded

Problems related to the grading policy for this course or other course management concerns should be first brought to the attention of the professor for the course. However, a resolution of 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 grade as necessary for feedback.

Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links

I need:	LINK
How to purchase course materials and access virtual textbook	https://atlm.textbooktech.com/pages/inclusive-access
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.