Course Outline

Course number	RBE211				
Course title	**Formal Logic and Critical Thinking**				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture hours	32				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory		**Restricted elective**	X	Free elective	

COURSE TEACHERS

No.	Name	Academic degree	Academic position
1	Jurģis Šķilters	Ph.D.	Visiting Professor
2	Linda Apse	Ph.D.	Visiting Docent

COURSE ABSTRACT

The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of elementary formal logic and to show its applications in the analysis of argumentation, thus, providing an introduction to critical thinking. Norms of rational argumentation and discourse will be discussed and practically applied.

Further, criteria of a logically consistent, clear and coherent thinking and correct argumentation will be also explored and applied in practical exercises.

The course will also investigate direct and indirect, normal and fundamental forms of arguments, logical operations, the relevant truth tables and their application in the analysis of compound expressions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- The course will contribute to analytical and critical argumentation and reasoning skills. At the end of the course students will be able to logically analyse definitions and to recognize fallacies of argumentation and definition.
- Students will also be able to build a consistent and coherent structure of argumentation and to practically analyse arguments and to operate with logical connectives and truth tables. Course will equip students with practical skills of using logic in analysis of reasoning.
- Student will have skills to conduct a critical inquiry.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Individual home work	20 %
Midterm written test	40 %
Final examination (written test)	40 %

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Subject	Planned hours
1	Logic, its development and functions	8
2	Definitions and arguments; the role of logic in critical thinking	10
3	Techniques in logical reasoning; critical thinking	14