



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

# Critical and Creative Thinking Course

*Centre for  
Continuing Education*



# Critical and Creative Thinking Course



This critical and creative thinking course will equip you with the methods and tools for improving your capacity to solve complex problems. The critical thinking skills will focus on how you frame a problem, consider a range of perspectives, and finally, how you critically analyse the potential factors and causes of the problem in order to focus on the right problem to solve. The development of your creative thinking skills will encourage you to generate ideas, explore new possibilities and solve problems in novel ways, both individually and with others.

In today's workplace, innovation is necessary for keeping up with the constant and rapid changes. Exercising critical and creative thinking skills is vital for creating competitive offers and being first to offer new advantages for your organisation through innovative services and products. The key is to continue to develop your critical and creative thinking skills so that they emerge spontaneously when needed.



## Course duration

1 session, 8 hours total



## Time

9am - 5pm



## Format

Face-to-face  
or  
Online in real-time



## Dates

Browse available  
[course dates](#)

## Intended audience

This course is intended for anyone in business, government or creative industries who are seeking to apply critical and creative thinking to solve problems in robust and creative ways, whilst discerning the sources of truth.

## Prerequisites

None



## Upon completion

Every participant receives a University of Sydney certificate of completion.



## Aims

The aim of this course is to build your skills in critical and creative problem-solving in both workplace and everyday situations. Developing your critical and creative thinking will enable you to deliver stronger outcomes in the workplace and in leading others.



## Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- understand the importance of critical thinking in problem-solving
- demonstrate skills in critical thinking by reframing a 'problem' and approaching problem-solving from different angles with a fresh perspective
- enhance your capacity to uncover assumptions, biases and world views
- demonstrate skills in creative thinking
- combine both critical and creative thinking to approach problem solving in order to offer innovative solutions alongside others.



## Content

- Complex problem solving – how to examine a problem at a deeper level, and consider contributing factors and perspectives to identify a viable, long-term solution
- Our assumptions and biases, and how these influence how we perceive a problem and potential solutions to it
- Key stakeholders and why their perspectives are important in shaping solutions
- Creative ways to think differently about how to solve a problem to achieve a more desirable, feasible and viable solution
- Divergent and convergent thinking styles
- The 5W1H problem framing approach
- Causal layer analysis to uncover assumptions, biases, and worldviews
- The importance of exploring multiple stakeholder perspectives
- The impact of our biases on how we see and solve problems
- Creative exercise using Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats





*“I had a great experience, I was able to challenge my creative and critical thinking side, which I can use for my own business. It was also encouraging to be around a diverse class of people where I was able to understand others’ perspectives. It has sparked my desire to further my creative and critical thinking.”*

**Jacky Luo**

*“What I loved the most about this class was the exercises, which led to incredible discussions!”*

**Dioryto Clarakrina Elyzabeth**



### **Materials**

All course materials are provided electronically and include a presentation pack and a course booklet.

### **Delivery style**

Interactive group discussions to allow participants to share, ask questions, reflect and integrate the teachings at a deeper, more meaningful level.

Participants will take part in hands-on group exercises and review business case studies that showcase common complex challenges organisations and businesses face at both a micro and macro level. They will be encouraged to share a relevant complex problem they have encountered in their own role, whether as a leader or team member..



### **Organisational training and development**

This course can be delivered as a private session for groups, and tailored to meet the needs of your business. Contact us to discuss our range of organisational training solutions.

[Learn more](#)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

Empower ambition,  
*inspire leadership*

**For more information**

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