

Fall 2021 NUB Instructor Guide for Module 4b: University Policies, Etiquette, and Critical Thinking

Overview and Objectives

This block introduces students to some important policies and protocols of being an NU student, including drop/add dates and procedures. Next is a discussion of analytical thinking, listening, and reading, including a video on analytical thinking.

Class Outline

Peer Mentor Moments

- Announcements & troubleshooting.
- Add comments about your experiences with /observations of “Live your Best Purple Pride.”
- Add your perspectives on critical thinking at the college level.

Highlights

- Go over the “Live your Best Purple Pride” section of the handbook (pp. 51-72).
- Critical Thinking Video <https://sites.niagara.edu/other/nub/videos/> & Discussion
- HW: assign “Critical Thinking Assignment” on p. 140 of handbook
- Remind students their presentations will be given in Module 5a/b.
- Engagement opportunities reminders: students they must attend an event related to the upcoming Vincentian Heritage week, and the Red Flag Campaign is September 30, 4-7pm.
- Possible time for additional discussion

- **Troubleshooting:** (3 mins) Peer Mentors ask students about any problems they are facing—academically, in the residence halls, dealing with family at home, relationships, etc. Encourage your peer mentor to give advice about how to handle those problems. Chip in, or suggest alternatives to your peer mentor’s advice, as necessary.
- **Peer mentor announcements:** (2 mins) Peer mentors announce things to do on campus this week and make any other announcements.
- **Discussion of Policies and Etiquette:** (10 mins) Review the “Live your Best Purple Pride” section of the handbook (pp. 51-72)—please make sure that students bring it with them to class.
- **A couple of policies you might want to highlight (along with any others in this section)...**
 - The Course Retake Policy/Repeating a Course: p. 55
 - Changing a Course: p. 53
 - Grade Conflicts: p. 54
 - Drop/Add policies: p. 56
 - Etiquette / How to Email Professors: p. 59
- **What if I am experiencing harassment or discrimination?** The student should consult the Dean of Students, Averl Harbin, lower level Gallagher Center, (286-8405). Contact info is also available on the inside back cover of the handbook.
- **What if I need to request disability accommodation?** Contact Kelly Engert, Coordinator of Accessibility Services, in the Academic Success Center, first floor Seton Hall. Contact info on the back inside cover of the handbook.

- **Watch & Discuss Critical Thinking Video:** (25 mins). Link is on the NUB website: <http://sites.niagara.edu/other/nub/videos/> or here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnJ1bqXUnIM>. When the video (6 mins) is over, have a discussion (9 minutes).
- Please talk over pp. 39-50 of the handbook, covering Analytical Thinking, Analytical Listening, and Analytical Reading. You won't have time to cover everything, or even most of the content there. There are two fundamental points we want to stress though: First, that the kind of thinking, listening, reading, and indeed speaking that students will be asked or required to do in college is importantly different—different in kind—than the kind of thinking, listening, reading, and speaking that they are used to from ordinary life or even high school. It requires a much more thought and care...and time. And second, that this kind of thinking, listening, reading, and speaking is of great importance in adult life outside of college. It's required by all responsible citizens who must distinguish between real and fake news, it's required in business for the analysis of internal reports, market conditions, etc., and it's required in our personal lives for solving problems we face individually and in our relationships.
- Review and assign the critical thinking assignment (pp. 140-163) due the week of Module 6.
- **Engagement Assignment Reminders:** Vincentian Heritage Week is held the week including September 27th to coincide with the Feast of St. Vincent. Students must attend an event related to the upcoming Vincentian Heritage week. In addition, the Red Flag Campaign is September 30, 4-7pm. Additional details are forthcoming. The Engagement Assignment is due Module 9.
- **There may be time for other discussion.**