Critical Thinking, Pedagogy, and Jiu Jitsu: Wedding Physical Resistance to Critical Thinking

Peter Boghossian, Portland State University
Allison White, Portland State University
Dustin Sanow, Portland State University
Travis Elder, Portland State University
James Funston, Portland State University

Published In
Radical Pedagogy

Document Type
Article

Publication Date
2017

Subjects
Pedagogy, Critical thinking -- Study and teaching (Higher), Jiu jitsu, Mixed martial arts

Abstract
This paper argues that training methodologies similar to those used in Brazilian jiu jitsu and other realistic combat arts like Western boxing, Muay Thai, kickboxing, and college wrestling should constitute a pedagogical core of college critical thinking courses. To make this argument, first, we briefly define and explain “critical thinking” using the American Philosophical Association’s Delphi Report; second, we describe traditional content taught in nearly all undergraduate critical thinking classes and explain why this content may not achieve its epistemological and educational ambitions; third, we discuss the pedagogy, termed “aliveness,” used in jiu jitsu and mixed martial arts training; and finally, we detail how to thematically incorporate pedagogical aspects of aliveness into critical thinking classes through the use of the “I Method” (Introduction, Isolation, Integration).

Description

© Radical Pedagogy

Persistent Identifier
http://archives.pdx.edu/ds/psu/20975

Citation Details
Boghossian, Peter; White, Allison; Sanow, Dustin; Elder, Travis; and Funston, James, "Critical Thinking, Pedagogy, and Jiu Jitsu: Wedding Physical Resistance to Critical Thinking" (2017). Philosophy Faculty Publications and Presentations. 32.
https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/phil_fac/32
What is critical thinking? It refers to the ability to analyze information objectively and make a reasoned judgment. Critical thinking involves the evaluation of sources such as data, facts, observable phenomenon, and research findings. Good critical thinkers can draw reasonable conclusions from a set of information and discriminate between useful and less useful details to solve a problem or make a decision. Why Do Employers Value Critical Thinking Skills? Employers want job candidates who can evaluate a situation using logical thought and come up with the best solution. Someone with critical... Critical thinking calls for a persistent effort to examine any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the evidence that supports it and the further conclusions to which it tends. (Glaser, 1941, p. 5). It is immediately obvious that this definition owes a lot to Dewey’s original definition. Critical thinking is that mode of thinking – about any subject, content or problem – in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skilfully taking charge of the structures. What is critical thinking and how to improve it. 5. inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them. The National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking defines critical thinking as an “intellectually disciplined process of actively and skilfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.” The process tends to help us judge and evaluate situations based on understanding the related data, analyze it, build a clear understanding of the problem, choose the proper solution, and take actions based on the established solution.