

ICOM 5047 Homework 6

Fall 2009

Today: September 2, 2009

Due date: September 4, 2009

Points: 10 points

Individual homework – one per student

Submission:

- Via email.
- Subject on the email: Homework 6 ICOM 5047, students will lose 5 points if the subject is changed
- Send the email to nayda@ece.uprm.edu, fvega@ece.uprm.edu, and icouver@ece.uprm.edu.
- Submit by 8:30am on the due date.

1 Read the article “Are We Losing Our Ability to Think Critically?”, Samuel Greengard, Communications of the ACM, Vol 52, No. 07, Jul 09.

2 Critical Thinking Exercise

The goal of this exercise is for you to use your critical thinking skills. **You should write a short essay** reviewing critically the article that has been handed out. The following questions **serve only as guidelines** for your homework assignment. You should address all the issues in the questions but **do not write your assignment as if you were answering a questionnaire**. The guiding questions are:

What is critical thinking? You should address this question from some literature research and your own personal definition. You may provide an example from your own experience where you have applied critical thinking; examples are used to clarify concepts to your readers.

What kind of computer technologies do you use for studying, entertainment, communication or any other aspect of your life; consider software and systems you use, such as computer models and simulators, Web 2.0 technologies, games and types of games, etc.

Which of the previously presented technologies are more popular among your peers?

Based on your discussion of the previous issues, what is your position regarding the article? Present your arguments or data in favor of your position regarding this issue.

What are the stronger arguments of those who oppose your personal position?

How do you compare your arguments and those of your opponents?

What do you conclude about the use of technology and its effect on critical thinking skills of students and youngsters?