**The Elements of Reasoning and the Logic of a Course**

(adapted from the Critical Thinking Community online materials)

Using page 29 in the *Miniature Guide*, go through the Elements of Thought, beginning with the Purpose of thinking and figure out how they relate to your course. Spend 10 minutes making notes as you prepare to explain the logic of it to another person.

Focus on:

1. Its purpose (why do we teach it?)

2. The questions or problems one learns to answer or solve as one masters this course material.

3. The kind of information one needs to access during the course.

4. The basic concepts or ideas (vocabulary) essential to the course.

5. The kinds of inferences (the mode of judgements) this course cultivates (one learns to make reasoned judgements about . . . ?)

6. The possible implications and/or consequences of those inferences.

7. The assumptions this course makes.

8. The point(s) of view studying the course engenders.

\*Don’t worry about the items you have trouble with.

\*You will spend 5 minutes explaining what you figured out with a partner.

1. Choose a course you are teaching.

2. Use the model of the Elements of Thought to think through your course design.

- What is my fundamental purpose?

- What is the central question?

- What are other key questions which relate to the central question?

- What sorts of information will students needs in order to do the thinking I want?

- What sorts of “judgements” will I want them to learn to make?

- What are the key concepts for the course?

- What are the main assumptions underlying this course?

- If this course content is learned well, the implications are \_\_\_\_.

- If this course content is not learned well, the implications are \_\_\_\_.

- The main point(s) of view presented in this course are\_\_\_.