

## Critical thinking

One goal of this course is to encourage use of the concepts and skills associated with *critical thinking*, including about our own ideas. We are constructing our own knowledge of the relationship between computers and humans and reflecting on this process. Group work, quizzes and the final exam will include questions that require critical thinking.

Critical thinking involves *reasoning*, which always:

- has a purpose;
- attempts to figure something out, settle a question, or solve a problem;
- is based on assumptions;
- is done from some point of view;
- is based on data, information, and evidence;
- is expressed through and shaped by concepts and ideas;
- contains inferences or interpretations by which conclusions are drawn and data is given meaning;
- leads somewhere or has implications and consequences.

### Reference

R. Paul and L. Elder, *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools*, Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2007; [www.criticalthinking.org](http://www.criticalthinking.org).