Welcome to Thinking Critically and Creatively, 10-809-103. My name is Sarah Landsdown (feel free to call me Sarah), and I am the facilitator for this course. The instruction for accessing the course is enclosed. You will have access beginning on 3/5/12 but I may make it available a few days before the start of the semester.

You should have already completed an on-line orientation. If you have not completed the orientation, please do so as soon as possible, it can be found at this link: http://www.ntc.edu/current-students/blackboard.html.

If you have questions or need assistance when you are working on your course, you can contact the NTC Student Help Desk via e-mail at studenthelp@ntc.edu or call 715-803-1160, press option #1, or 1-888-682-7144, Ext. 1160, press option #1.

The Internet portion of this course contains quizzes, discussion boards, and various performance assessment tasks.

You will need the following book to successfully complete the course:


You can purchase this book by stopping in at the NTC Bookstore on the Wausau campus if you are in the Wausau area or by contacting one of NTC’s regional campuses in Antigo, Wittenberg, Spencer, Phillips, or Medford. Another option is to call the NTC Bookstore at 715/675-3331, Ext. 1154, or 1-888-682-7144, Ext. 1154, and ask that the books be shipped to you. They will charge a shipping and handling fee, and they will require payment either by credit card or check prior to shipping the books. The bookstore might also have a used textbook or reference manual available at a reduced cost.

On-line courses come in many shapes and sizes just like regular classroom courses. This course has specific due dates for the learning plan assessment activities. Within the time frame of that learning plan, you can choose the time and place to work on the course. The advantages are that you don’t have to be "at school" on a specific day and at a specific time and you don't have to drive back and forth.

In an on-line course we try to give you one of the chief benefits of the classroom, which is the opportunity to discuss with and learn from your classmates. The Blackboard classroom allows us to engage in "discussions" through a Discussion Board. In this course you will have some requirements to enter into discussions by posting your comments on questions.
and then responding to what your classmates have said. These discussions will take place over a period of one week, so you don't have to be on-line at a specific time.

Sometimes learners make the assumption that an on-line course is easier than taking the same course in the classroom. That is not necessarily true because the same competencies and skills are taught, just the format is different. Because this course in condensed, the rigor of this course is more intense than that of a regular semester course, so plan to devote at least 20 hours to this course a week. Make sure to look at the due date timeline in the course and be aware of deadlines. I am available by e-mail or phone for help, so please feel free to ask questions to make sure you understand the content. Make sure to become familiar with the course documents and investigate how assignments are submitted. Learning Plan 1 will due by 6 PM on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Make sure to note that some weeks there will be more than one learning plan due, reference the due date outline attached to the syllabus.

If you decide not to take this class or want to drop the course later, contact Student Services at NTC at 715/675-3331, Extension 1029. NTC's refund policy states that you must request a refund within a specific time period. Please also contact me and let me know.

Please contact me by e-mail or phone if you have any questions about this course. My e-mail address is landsdow@ntc.edu. My phone number is 715/803-1847, or 1-888-682-7144, Ext. 1847. I also have scheduled office hours on Mondays 2 – 3 PM, Tuesday, 3 – 5 PM and Wednesdays 1 – 3 PM, but you can contact me and schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for both of us as well. Also, if you have any suggestions for improvements or other comments as you go through the course, please let me know. I look forward to working with you this semester.

Sincerely,

Sarah Landsdown
Economics Instructor
Northcentral Technical College