

Greetings,

Welcome to the first community post of our Fram 'news'. I wanted to get some important information out to you while I wait for our website and such to be completed and have a bit of fun!

We have been busy this fall! Let me update you –

### **Our first theme within Applied Critical Thinking: Complexity!**

You have seen that word highlighted in my communication about our Fram Lecture at 4 pm on April 5, 2016: 'Thinking Critically: the *complexity* of modern medicine' given by Dr. Luis Amaral of Northwestern University. Complexity will also be a centerpiece of events that we are planning for the spring. But, why start with complexity? Simply, much of the reason why we think critically is due to our effort to wrestle with complex issues, problems, consider evidence across domains or differing views, and ultimately, seek to understand our world. And certainly, the world is not getting simpler! We want to exercise our mental muscles!

### **Two learning opportunities in Applied Critical Thinking:**

There are two special learning opportunities for students to get more practice in applied critical thinking this spring that I would like to highlight. I have listed very shortened descriptions here, with links to more information.

#### **Undergraduate:**

PHIL 449 Special Topics: Responsible Knowing

Tu/Th 2:00-3:15

Professor: E. Brister

What we do is connected to what we know. We will study how we produce responsible knowledge individually and collectively: from how we make ethically rational choices in our own lives, to how society directs research priorities in science and technology.

**No pre-reqs.** Writing Intensive credit. Counts toward the Philosophy minor and immersion and the Ethics immersion. <http://www.rit.edu/cla/philosophy/VariableTopics.html#STResKnowing>

#### **Graduate:**

**A graduate salon on World Making**, integrating interdisciplinary discussions a cross science and humanities with critical thinking, is being offered by four faculty (Timothy Engstrom, Carlos Lousto, Hector Flores, and Jennifer Schneider), in spring 2016. The salon will meet biweekly starting January 27, at 5 pm in room 87-3200. For information and registration, please contact Dr. Hector Flores, [hefgrad@rit](mailto:hefgrad@rit).

#### **Strategic Action Plan (SAP):**

The Fram Advisory Board, the FABulous board, has been very busy creating a guidance document for our activities in applied critical thinking for the immediate future. We will have a copy posted on the web shortly, but in the meantime, feel free to ask your FABulous representative about it.

**Fram Advisory Board:**

I am very excited to welcome Dr. Callie Babbitt of the Golisano Institute of Sustainability to our Applied Critical Thinking advisory board! We have also created an email to talk to us: **RITFramChair@rit.edu**

The complete list is noted below:

- Jerry Argetsinger**  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf..... gsanla@rit.edu
- Callie Babbitt**  
Golisano Institute of Sustainability ..... cwggis@rit.edu
- Heath Boice-Pardee**  
Student Affairs ..... h.boice@rit.edu
- Roger Dube**  
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**Fram it!**

Now, let’s try some fun. Each news will have an opportunity to exercise your critical thinking. You see, critical thinking is not simply about getting the ‘right answer’, and in fact, many times, especially in our complex world, there is no one ‘right answer’. It is about the *process* you undertook to arrive at your result or results, and the many unique ways can view and wrestle with each question. Therefore, I introduce our first Fram It!

**Question:** How many F’s are within this message?

**Rules for this Fram It!**

1. You must be able to explain and show how you arrived at your result.
2. You must FIND the Fram (me) in person and explain your process.
3. You must be willing to have your process published.
4. You must have an active RIT ID to participate.

**The prize:** The first 5 RIT community members who Fram It! successfully get a Java Wally's treat. Processes may be published on our upcoming website.

Happy Holidays!

*Dr. Jennifer L. Schneider, CIH*

Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking, Office of the Provost

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