

PHILOSOPHY 121 - CRITICAL THINKING

First Semester, 2020 - 2021

Professor Information

Name: Dōna Warren (“Dr. Warren,” “Professor Warren,” “Ms. Warren,” and “Dōna” are fine.)
Office Hours: 1:00 - 1:45 on Mondays and Wednesdays, and by appointment.
E-mail/ Phone: dwarren@uwsp.edu / 715-346-4115

Office hours will be conducted through Zoom, but I’d be happy to speak with you on the phone or communicate with you via email as well. I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours, excluding weekends.

Course Schedule

This course is self-paced. In order to move from one module to the next, you’ll need to meet or exceed a designated score on each assessment in your current module. But don’t worry! You’ll be able to retake all of the assessments as often as you like until you reach mastery.

I have included a “suggested completion date” for each module in Canvas in order to help you pace yourself, but please remember that these are only *suggested* dates. You might want to move more quickly or you might want to move more slowly. That’s fine.

Grading

Your grade will be a function of how far you get by the last day of finals week:

- Completing Chapter 1 and stopping there will earn you a D.
- Completing Chapter 2 and stopping there will earn you a D+
- Completing Chapter 3 and stopping there will earn you a C.
- Completing Chapter 4 and stopping there will earn you a B.
- Completing Chapter 5 and stopping there will earn you an A-.
- Completing Chapter 5 and one of the following application projects will earn you an A.

Application Projects:

- ✓ Participating in at least 11 weekly group discussions. You may earn your discussion point either by attending a Zoom class session or by posting in a discussion form.
- ✓ Writing a brief (750-1000 word) argumentative essay (either in response to a short reading and given a prompt or on a pre-approved subject of your choosing).
- ✓ Creating a short (2-3 minute) persuasive video (either in response to a short reading or video and given a prompt or on a pre-approved subject of your choosing).

Obviously, I hope that you’ll work through to the end and get at least an A- because the skill set you’ll build is more valuable the farther you get in the course, but it’s up to you!

Teacher and Course Evaluations

I will be administering anonymous teacher and course evaluations at the end of the semester, but if you have any comments or concerns that you'd like to share with me during the course of the semester, please feel free to do so. I may or may not change the thing concerning you, but if I don't change it, I promise to explain it!

The Philosophy Major or Minor

If you find yourself enjoying this course, you might want to consider a philosophy major or minor. (Philosophy as a second major goes well with anything and we have kept the number of credits required for our major relatively low to make it as easy as possible for students to double major.) We also offer a philosophy major with a concentration in religious studies and a philosophy major with a concentration in environmental ethics.

If you'd like to declare a major or minor, just let me know and I'll help you get signed up!