

PHILOSOPHY 121 - CRITICAL THINKING

Second Semester, 2020 - 2021

Introduction

I'm Dōna Warren, a professor of philosophy and the director of the Critical Thinking Center. You may call me "Dr. Warren," "Professor Warren," "Ms. Warren," or "Dōna," whatever you prefer. I love teaching, and this is my favorite course to teach!

How You can Contact Me

Office Hours: 1:00 - 1:45 on Mondays and Wednesdays, and by appointment.

The Zoom link for our office hours is <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/93795093074> .

You can find this link on our Canvas site as well.

You don't need an appointment to visit me in my office hours. Just drop on by!

Email / Message: You may email me at dwarren@uwsp.edu or message me through the Canvas inbox.

I will do my best to respond to your emails and messages within 24 hours, excluding weekends.

How I will Contact You

I will contact you via

1. Your UWSP email
2. The Canvas inbox
3. Announcements in Canvas

Please check all of those spaces at least every other day.

(I realize that email can get overwhelming, so I will post every email that I send to the entire class as an announcement on Canvas as well.)

Grading

This course is self-paced. Here is how the grades will be assigned.

Grade	Chapters Completed	Timing of Completion	Participation Points	Comments
F	None	Last day of Finals Week	0	If you want to take this course entirely at your own pace, feel free! You'll get a solid set of critical thinking skills, and a C+ in the course, if you simply work on your own and complete Chapter 5 by the last day of Finals Week.
D	Chap. 1	Last day of Finals Week	0	
D+	Chap. 1-2	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C-	Chap. 1-3	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C	Chap. 1-4	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C+	Chap. 1-5	Last day of Finals Week	0	
B-	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>one</u> chapter by its recommended date	1-3	If you want to engage the material at a deeper level, complete some of the chapters by the recommended dates and earn participation points. By completing some chapters by the recommended dates, you'll pace your learning. By earning participation points, you'll apply your learning. This pacing and application will enhance your retention of what you learn and make this course even more valuable.
B	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>two</u> chapters by their recommended dates	4-6	
B+	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>three</u> chapters by their recommended dates	7-8	
A-	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>four</u> chapters by their recommended dates	9-10	
A	Chap. 1-5	Complete all <u>five</u> chapters by their recommended dates	11-12	

Note: When you take the assessments, the Gradebook in Canvas will look like your score is affecting your grade. Do not believe the Gradebook in Canvas. I will assign grades in the way that I described above.

Completing the Chapters

Each chapter in the course is composed of the following parts:

- An indication of the [recommended completion date](#).
- A [welcome page](#) that briefly introduces you to the chapter.
- [Learning Resources](#) that include
 - ✓ [A chapter](#) for you to read.
Each chapter is designed to help you master an important set of skills, so please do read the chapters. I know they can look long, but I've tried to write them in an accessible way, as if I were teaching you one-on-one. Students have reported that the chapters are faster to read than they might first appear. So grab a cup of tea, open the chapter, and pretend that I'm with you, teaching you in person.
 - ✓ [A handbook](#) for the chapter.
The handbook for each chapter summarizes the important points of each chapter. And the handbooks are cumulative, so the material in the Chapter 3 handbook contains all of the material in the handbooks Chapters 1 and 2, for example. Consequently, the handbook for the last chapter you complete can serve as a summary of your learning and a guide to its application.
 - ✓ [Extra practice exercises](#).
Critical Thinking is a bit like math in that it's one thing to be able to follow somebody else doing it and quite another thing to be able to do it yourself. These practice exercises are optional, but a great way for you to solidify your understanding!
- [Assessments](#)
 - ✓ Each chapter will have a set of assessments.
Beneath the name of each assessment, you'll see:
 - A [date](#).
This is simply the recommended completion date for that chapter.
 - You may certainly complete the assessments after that date. They won't close.
 - The [number of points](#) that the assessment has.
 - The [score that you need to achieve](#) in order to count as completing that assessment.
You may take each assessment as often as you need in order to achieve that score. Once you've achieved the required scores on each of the assessments in a chapter, you will be able to progress to the next chapter.

Earning Participation Points

One (1) participation point will be available each week.

You may earn the participation point for the week by attending *one* Zoom session that week session or by participating in the discussion forum for that week. Please note that you don't need to do both the Zoom session and the discussion forum to earn the participation point for the week, although you certainly may do both if you wish.

Participation Points: Zoom Sessions

You may earn your participation point for the week by attending one of the Zoom sessions that week.

There will be two Zoom sessions available, one on Monday and one on Wednesday. The Zoom link for these sessions is <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/99706349249>. You can find this link on our Canvas site as well.

I'll cover the same material on Monday and Wednesday, so it doesn't matter which day you attend.

Here's the plan for internet outages:

- If I should lose my internet connection during a Zoom session, please wait for 10 minutes for me to get back on. If I'm unable to get back on in 10 minutes, consider the session cancelled. I will give you your participation point regardless of when my internet went down.
- If you should lose your internet connection, simply log back on. The Zoom log automatically shows me see how long you were in the Zoom session. If you can't log back on for some reason, I'll give you your participation point if you attended for at least 45 minutes. (If you can't attend for 45 minutes, of course, you can still get your participation point by posting in the discussion forum, so an unexpected internet outage shouldn't hurt you.)

Please include your entire name as your Zoom name.

- When I download the meeting log from Zoom, I get the name that you used on Zoom, not your official name on my gradebook. If you include your first and last name on Zoom, I have a much easier time finding you in the gradebook and giving you your point.

Participation Points: Discussion Forums

You may earn your participation point for the week by posting in the Discussion Forum on Canvas.

When there are objectively right or wrong answers to the questions posed in the Forum, I may ask you to email me your response instead of posting it. In that case, I will include a link to my email.

Teacher and Course Evaluations

I will be administering anonymous teacher and course evaluations at the end of the semester and there will be regular opportunities for you complete anonymous Canvas surveys to let me know how things are going for you as the semester progresses. Your feedback is very useful to me!

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!