

# PHILOSOPHY 121 - CRITICAL THINKING

First Semester, 2022 - 2023

## INTRODUCTION

I'm Dōna Warren, a professor of philosophy and head of the Critical Thinking Center. Unsurprisingly, this is my favorite course to teach!

You are welcome to call me "Dr. Warren," "Professor Warren," "Ms. Warren," or "Dōna."

## HOW YOU CAN CONTACT ME

Office: Room 122 Collins Classroom Center  
<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/7153464115>

Drop-In Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.  
Feel free to stop by my office during this time, hop into my Zoom room, or communicate with me through Canvas Chat. No appointment is necessary. You are welcome to make an appointment with me for another time that is more convenient for you.

Email / Message: You may email me at [dwarren@uwsp.edu](mailto: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. Your Canvas inbox.
3. Announcements in Canvas: 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.

It's a good idea to check your UWSP email and our Canvas site at least every other day.

## WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING

You will work through this course by doing two things:

- 1) Completing modules on Canvas, and
- 2) Earning participation points.

## 1) COMPLETING THE MODULES ON CANVAS

### How to Complete the Modules: Pages, Assessments, and No Final Exam

As you work through each module, you'll be reading material in the pages and taking assessments. Once you've read the material in a page, you'll need to mark that page as done in order to continue. When you take an assessment, you'll need to achieve a required score in order to continue. But don't worry! You'll be able to take each assessment as many times as you need to achieve that score.

There will be no final exam, but there will be an opportunity for you to earn an extra participation point by attending a discussion during the final exam period. (Participation points are addressed in detail later in the syllabus.)

### Due Dates and Suggested Schedule: Please Keep Up, but Nothing Will Close

The Canvas portion of the course is largely self-paced, but each module has a due date. As explained in the grading section of the syllabus, your grade will be partially determined by how many modules you complete by their due dates. You may, of course, complete modules after their due dates have passed. The modules won't close. And you are more than welcome to work ahead.

- ✓ Module 0 is due by the end of Wk. 1: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Sept 11.
- ✓ Module 1 is due by the end of Wk. 4: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Oct. 2.
- ✓ Module 2 is due by the end of Wk. 6: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Oct. 16.
- ✓ Module 3 is due by the end of Wk. 9: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Nov. 6.
- ✓ Module 4 is due by the end of Wk. 12: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Nov. 27.
- ✓ Module 5 is due by the end of Wk. 15: 11:59 p.m. Sun., Dec. 18.

To help you meet those due dates, I've provided a suggested schedule to guide your engagement with the material on Canvas. This suggested schedule notes what you might want to accomplish in a day, the number pages in each reading, and the number of questions in each assessment.

If you compare the suggested schedule with the calendar, you'll note that there are fewer days in the schedule for each module than there are between due dates. This is because some material might take a bit longer than I indicated on the schedule and because I don't expect you to work on the Canvas material every single day. Accordingly, I've built in some "wiggle room."

Obviously, it's a good idea to take less time on the material you understand easily in order to have more time to spend on the topics you find more challenging. If you can do two- or three-days work in a module in one day (without exhausting yourself or just going through the motions) by all means, do it! That will give you the flexibility to spend more time on the other material (or to take extra days off).

<b>MODULE 0</b>		<b>Due end of Wk. 1 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Sept. 11</b>	
Schedule 3 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Start Here	1	
	Syllabus	11	
	Syllabus Quiz		16
Day 2 of Module	Some Preliminaries	1	
	Some Questions for You		2
	Introduction to Critical Thinking Quiz		5
Day 3 of Module	Pre-Test		15
	Resources	1	

<b>MODULE 1</b>		<b>Due end of Wk. 4 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Oct. 2</b>	
Schedule 10 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Introductory Material	8	
	Understanding Check		7
Day 2 of Module	Example 1	15	
	Example 1 Summary	5	
	Understanding Check		6
Day 3 of Module	Example 2	13	
	Example 2 Summary	5	
	Understanding Check		7
Day 4 of Module	Inference Understanding Check		27
	Support Understanding Check		10
Day 5 of Module	Example 3	3	
	Example 3 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
	Example 4	8	
	Example 4 Summary	4	
Day 6 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 5	11	
	Example 5 Summary	4	
Day 7 of Module	Understanding Check		11
	Example 6	1	
	Example 6 Summary	1	
Day 8 of Module	Understanding Check		1
	Example 7	12	
	Example 7 Summary	4	
Day 9 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Comprehensive Understanding Check		19
Day 10 of module	Constructing & Communicating	10	
	Constructing & Communicating Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		12
Day 10 of module	Handbook	5	

<b>MODULE 2</b>		<b>Due end of Wk. 6 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Oct. 16</b>	
Schedule 9 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Introductory Material	2	
	Understanding Check		2
	Example 1	1	
	Example 1 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
Day 2 of Module	Example 2	16	
	Example 2 Summary	4	
	Understanding Check		8
Day 3 of Module	Example 3	4	
	Example 3 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		3
	Example 4	9	
	Example 4 Summary	5	
Day 4 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Example 5	5	
	Example 5 Summary	4	
Day 5 of Module	Understanding Check		5
	Example 6	5	
	Example 6 Summary	3	
Day 6 of Module	Understanding Check		7
	Example 7	12	
	Example 7 Summary	4	
Day 7 of Module	Understanding Check		5
	Comprehensive Understanding Check		22
	Day 8 of Module	Constructing & Communicating	3
Constructing & Communicating			
Summary		1	
Day 9 of Module	Understanding Check		11
	Handbook	7	

<b>MODULE 3</b>		<b>Due end of Wk. 9 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Nov. 6</b>	
Schedule 11 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Introductory Material	2	
	Understanding Check		2
	Example 1	2	
	Example 1 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
Day 2 of Module	Example 2	24	
	Example 2 Summary	5	
Day 3 of Module	Understanding Check		12
Day 4 of Module	Example 3	16	
	Example 3 Summary	4	
	Understanding Check		11
Day 5 of Module	Example 4	13	
	Example 4 Summary	4	
	Understanding Check		12
Day 6 of Module	Example 5	12	
	Example 5 Summary	5	
	Understanding Check		8
Day 7 of Module	Example 6	8	
	Example 6 Summary	4	
	Understanding Check		10
Day 8 of Module	Example 7	13	
	Example 7 Summary	4	
	Understanding Check		12
Day 9 of Module	Comprehensive Understanding Check		24
Day 10 of Module	Constructing & Communicating	10	
	Constructing & Communicating Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		11
Day 11 of Module	Handbook	8	

<b>MODULE 4</b>		<b>Due end of Wk. 12 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Nov. 27</b>	
Schedule 8 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Introductory Material	2	
	Understanding Check		3
	Example 1	1	
	Example 1 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
	Example 2	17	
	Example 2 Summary	4	
Day 2 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 3	1	
	Example 3 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
	Example 4	17	
	Example 4 Summary	4	
Day 3 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 5	17	
	Example 5 Summary	7	
Day 4 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 6	12	
	Example 6 Summary	6	
Day 5 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 7	13	
	Example 7 Summary	5	
Day 6 of Module	Understanding Check		10
	Comprehensive Understanding Check		27
Day 7 of Module	Constructing & Communicating	9	
	Constructing & Communicating Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		14
Day 8 of Module	Handbook	10	

MODULE 5		Due end of Wk. 15 - 11:59 p.m. Sun., Dec. 18	
Schedule 14 days	Reading / Assessment	# of Pages	# of Questions
Day 1 of Module	Introductory Material	6	
	Understanding Check		1
	Example 1	1	
	Example 1 Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		1
	Example 2	1	
	Example 2 Summary	1	
Day 2 of Module	Understanding Check		1
	Example 3	6	
	Example 3 Summary	3	
Day 3 of Module	Understanding Check		9
	Example 4	9	
	Example 4 Summary	9	
Day 4 of Module	Understanding Check		6
	Example 5	7	
	Example 5 Summary	4	
Day 5 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Example 6	9	
	Example 6 Summary	5	
Day 6 of Module	Understanding Check		10
	Example 7	7	
	Example 7 Summary	4	
Day 7 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Dilemmas	6	
	Dilemmas Summary	1	
Day 8 of Module	Understanding Check		4
	Example 8	6	
	Example 8 Summary	3	
Day 9 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Example 9	7	
	Example 9 Summary	4	
Day 10 of Module	Understanding Check		8
	Example 10	14	
	Example 10 Summary	4	
Day 11 of Module	Understanding Check		12
	Comprehensive Understanding Check		35
Day 12 of Module	Constructing & Communicating	5	



	Constructing & Communicating Summary	1	
	Understanding Check		14
Day 13 of Module	Handbook	11	
Day 14 of Module	Post Test		15

## 2) EARNING PARTICIPATION POINTS

One (1) participation point will be available each week. You may earn the participation point for the week by attending one (1) class period that week.

I'll cover the same material on Monday and Wednesday, so it doesn't matter which day you attend. (The idea is that you can spend the other class period working on the modules.)

Although your grade will be partly dependent upon your attendance, missing one participation point won't impact your grade. (More on grading below.) If you should need to miss a larger number of classes due to illness, quarantine, family emergency, military service obligations, or a school or team related event, please let me know and I'll be happy to work out some arrangement with you.

## HOW GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED

Your grade will be determined by:

- 1) the number of Canvas modules that you complete by the last day of finals week.
- 2) the number of Canvas modules that you complete by their due dates, and
- 3) the number of participation points you earn.

(If Canvas shows you a cumulative percentage score or some other similar statistic, just ignore it.)

To determine your grade, use the table below.

- First, look down Column A (the modules you've completed by the end of Finals Week) until you've found your row.
- If you haven't completed Modules 0-5, stay in that row. If you have completed Modules 0-5, look down Column B (how many due dates you've met) until you've found your row.
- Now, staying in your row, look at Column C (how many participation points you've earned).
  - ✓ If your participation points *either fall within or exceed that range*, your grade will be the grade in that row.
  - ✓ If your participation points *fall below that range*, look up Column C until you find the row that captures your participation points. Your grade will be the grade in that row.

Column A		Column B		Column C		
Modules Completed by end of Finals Week	&	Number of Modules Completed by their Due Dates	&	Participation Points Earned	=	Grade
None or Module 0	&	(Not applicable)	&	0	=	F
Modules 0-1	&	(Not applicable. This only counts if all modules are completed by the end of Finals Week.)	&	0-4	=	D
Modules 0-2	&	(Not applicable. This only counts if all modules are completed by the end of Finals Week.)	&	0-4	=	D+
Modules 0-3	&	(Not applicable. This only counts if all modules are completed by the end of Finals Week.)	&	5-8	=	C-
Modules 0-4	&	(Not applicable. This only counts if all modules are completed by the end of Finals Week.)	&	5-8	=	C
Modules 0-5	&	None	&	5-8	=	C+
Modules 0-5	&	Complete <u>any one</u> of the six modules by its due date.	&	9-12	=	B-
Modules 0-5	&	Complete <u>any two</u> of the six modules by their due dates.	&	9-12	=	B
Modules 0-5	&	Complete <u>any three</u> of the six modules by their due dates.	&	9-12	=	B+
Modules 0-5	&	Complete <u>any four</u> of the six modules by their due dates.	&	13-15	=	A-
Modules 0-5	&	Complete <u>any five</u> of the six modules by their due dates.	&	13-15	=	A

## 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 useful to me!

And (I hope obviously), if something concerns you about the course at any time, please feel free to talk to me about it. I may or may not be able to change the thing that concerns you, but if I can't change it, I'll at least explain it. I won't take your concern personally or be upset with you for sharing it with me.

## THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR OR MINOR

This course will give you valuable skills no matter what your major is, but if you find yourself enjoying this course, you might want to consider majoring or minoring in philosophy. (Philosophy as a second major goes well with anything and we have kept the number of credits required for our major 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 would like to chat with me about possibly declaring a philosophy major or minor, just let me know! I'll be happy to oblige!