

## PHIL 121: CRITICAL THINKING

**Schedule:** Rooms 130 in Marshfield & 220 in Wausau

*Lecture:* Monday, 11:00 – 11:50 AM in Marshfield & Wausau

*Discussion Sections:*

- M01: Wednesday, 11:00 – 11:50 AM in Marshfield
- W01: Friday, 11:00 – 11:50 AM in Wausau

**Instructor:** Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

*Email:* roleary@uwsp.edu

*Office:* Rooms 162 in Marshfield & 311 in Wausau

*Office Hours:* Wednesday in Marshfield & Friday in Wausau, 10:00 – 10:50 AM,  
& by appointment

**Description:** Critical thinking is the intentional process of identifying, analyzing, evaluating, and constructing reasoning and deciding what conclusions to draw or actions to take. As such, it encompasses a wide variety of activities, including argumentation, decision making, and problem solving, and is encouraged by habits of mind like curiosity, confidence, intellectual humility, and persistence. In this course, we will study the fundamental principles of reasoning including recognition, analysis, and evaluation of arguments.

**Learning Objectives:** By taking this course, students will learn to:

- ✓ recognize arguments,
- ✓ track the elements of formal reasoning,
- ✓ evaluate arguments,
- ✓ take epistemic responsibility for their own thinking.

**Note on Electronic Items:** Computers, tablets, and cellphones are not permitted in this class. Exemptions to this rule will be made only with official documentation of a disability requiring the use of electronic devices. Recording devices are permitted. You will need to print electronic reserve readings to bring them to class.

**Textbook:** Moore & Parker, *Critical Thinking*, Thirteenth Edition

## EVALUATION & GRADING

The definition of an A student is one who not only does A work on the exams, but who also comes to class prepared at least 90 percent of the time. In other words, each category of course work is important. To earn a particular grade, you must meet or exceed the standard for every category, as listed on the table below.

Course Grade	Attendance	Discussion Assignments	Exams
<b>A</b>	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average	≥ 90% average
<b>B</b>	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average	≥ 80% average
<b>C</b>	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average	≥ 70% average
<b>D</b>	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average	≥ 60% average
<b>F</b>	< 60% average	< 60% average	< 60% average

**Attendance:** In this class attendance and participation are necessary to achieving our learning objectives. However, I know that sometimes absences are unavoidable. As such, you have three “free” absences before your grade is affected. (Each absence will cost 3.33% of your grade in the category.) If for any reason you need to miss a significant part of the course, it is your responsibility to work out appropriate accommodations.

**Discussion Assignments:** Academic excellence requires coming to class prepared and ready to take responsibility for one’s own learning. Each week that a textbook reading is listed on the schedule there will be a discussion assignment due before your discussion section. You will need to bring two copies with you to your discussion section: one that you will turn in to receive credit and the other that you keep.

**Exams:** There will be four cumulative exams given during the semester. Exams will cover material from the textbook and from lecture.

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester you will have opportunities to earn extra credit by attending events or workshops, doing additional reading, et cetera. Each extra credit opportunity you complete will add one-half of a grade level in your lowest category.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*Please do not mark exercise answers in rental textbooks.*

### **Week 1**

### **Week 2**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 1

### **Week 3**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 2

### **Week 4**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 3

First Exam in Lecture

### **Week 5**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 4

### **Week 6**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 5

### **Week 7**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 6

Second Exam in Lecture

### **Week 8**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 7

### **Week 9:**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 8

### **Week 10**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 9

Third Exam in Lecture

### **Week 11**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 10

### **Week 12 (Thanksgiving Break)**

No reading

### **Week 13**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 11

### **Week 14**

*Critical Thinking*, Chapter 12

### **Week 15**

No reading

### **Week 16: Finals Week**

Final Exam on Monday, Dec. 19,

10:15 AM – 12:15 PM

## CONCERNS & RESOURCES

### Academic Concerns

Being a Pointer means going to class regularly, doing your work outside of class, and asking for help if there are questions or concerns.

**Academic Misconduct:** Copying off someone's test, plagiarism, claiming credit for work that is not yours, and all other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at UW-Stevens Point. If a student is confused about what exactly academic misconduct is, there is information available regarding rules and procedures for the [process](#). You can also visit with your faculty or learn how to cite the work of others at the [Writing Lab](#).

**Academic Success:** Your full-time job at UW-Stevens Point is *to be a student*. Being successful depends a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asks questions or finding support if you feel lost. We have an amazing [Tutoring-Learning Center](#) if you want to learn how to be a better student or need subject-specific help.

**Disability Services:** UW-Stevens Point is committed to supporting students with disabilities the academic and other accommodations, plus the auxiliary aids necessary to ensure your success. To learn more, check out their [site](#) or visit them in Albertson Hall, room 609 (library building).

### Other Concerns and Resources

Responding to student concerns with care, concern, and resources is critical in supporting the success of our students and campus community. Here is a brief list of helpful resources.

#### Absence from Class

Contact faculty directly or if a crisis/emergency  
Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### Academic Difficulty

Academic & Career Advising Center  
715-346-3226, [uwsp.edu/acac](http://uwsp.edu/acac)

Disability Services & Assistive Technology  
715-346-3365, [uwsp.edu/dtac](http://uwsp.edu/dtac)

Tutoring-Learning Center  
715-346-3568, [uwsp.edu/tlc](http://uwsp.edu/tlc)

Students should visit with faculty of the course in which they are having trouble.

#### Add/drop Class; Withdrawal Questions

Office of the Registrar  
715-346-4301 [uwsp.edu/registrar](http://uwsp.edu/registrar)

Students should visit with their Academic Advisor.

#### Academic Misconduct

Faculty for the specific course or Office of the Dean of Students to discuss process  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### Alcohol or Drug Use

Center for Prevention  
715-346-3121, [uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv](http://uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv)

#### Bias or Hate Incidents

Office of the Dean of Students to report  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

Diversity and College Access  
715-346-4076, [uwsp.edu/dca](http://uwsp.edu/dca)

#### Concerning Behavior

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### Employment

Campus Activities and Student Engagement  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)

#### Family Crisis or Emergency

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

#### Financial Insecurity

Enrollment Services Center/Financial Aid  
715-346-3300; [uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices](http://uwsp.edu/enrollmentservices)

Emergency Grants  
Office of the Dean of Student  
715-346-2611; [Grant Application Form](#)

Financial Coaching Program  
UW-Stevens Point School of Business and Economics  
[Website](#) or email: [fincoach@uwsp.edu](mailto:fincoach@uwsp.edu)

Financial Literacy - Online  
[GradReady Program](#)

Financial Literacy - In Person  
Financial Literacy Association (Student Org.)  
College of Professional Studies, [finlit@uwsp.edu](mailto:finlit@uwsp.edu)

### **Food Resources**

The Cupboard - Stevens Point campus  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)  
[List of food resources in the community in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wausau](#)

### **Housing/Roommate Concerns**

Residential Living (your Hall Director first)  
715-346-3511 (central office), [uwsp.edu/resliving](http://uwsp.edu/resliving)

### **Identity and Difference**

Diversity and College Access  
715-346-4076, [uwsp.edu/dca](http://uwsp.edu/dca)

### **Involvement**

Campus Activities and Student Engagement  
715-346-4700, [uwsp.edu/centers/case](http://uwsp.edu/centers/case)

### **Legal Questions**

Student Legal Services  
715-346-4282, [uwsp.edu/dos/sls](http://uwsp.edu/dos/sls)

### **Loss of Family Member or Friend**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

### **Mental Health Concerns**

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

Mental Health Crisis Line (outside agency)  
866-317-9362 for after hours mental health support

### **Missing Student**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

University Police  
715-346-3456, [uwsp.edu/protsv](http://uwsp.edu/protsv)

### **Non-academic Misconduct**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

### **Physical Health / Injury**

Student Health Service (confidential resource)  
715-346-4646, [uwsp.edu/stuhealth](http://uwsp.edu/stuhealth)

### **Procedural Issue or Conflict**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

### **Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, or Harassment**

Office of the Dean of Students to report

715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

CAP Services - Stevens Point (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-340-7882, 715-346-4039, 800-472-3377 (toll free), [kpetrick@capmail.org](mailto:kpetrick@capmail.org), [capservices.org](http://capservices.org)

PDC - Marshfield (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-421-1509 or 844-210-8899 (toll free)

The Women's Community - Wausau (confidential advocacy services, outside agency)  
715-842-8323 or 888-665-1234 (toll free)

Center for Prevention (confidential services)  
715-346-3121, [uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv](http://uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv)

Counseling Center (confidential services)  
715-346-3553, [uwsp.edu/counseling](http://uwsp.edu/counseling)

University Police and Security Services to report  
715-346-3456, [uwsp.edu/protsv](http://uwsp.edu/protsv)

### **Title IX**

Haeryon Kim, 116 Old Main, 715-346-3020, [hakim@uwsp.edu](mailto:hakim@uwsp.edu), [Title IX site](#)

### **Transportation**

[UWSP Rideshare Facebook Page](#)  
[Stevens Point Bus Route](#)  
[Bus connections from Stevens Point](#)

### **Questions or Concerns Not Listed Here**

Office of the Dean of Students  
715-346-2611, [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

