

PHILOSOPHY 121 - CRITICAL THINKING

First Semester, 2021 - 2022

Introduction

I'm Dōna Warren, a professor of philosophy and head of the Critical Thinking Center. You are welcome to call me "Dr. Warren," "Professor Warren," "Ms. Warren," or "Dōna."

COVID Policy

We will be following the University's COVID protocols. Because these protocols may evolve, I'll keep the latest version of these protocols on our Canvas page.

How You can Contact Me

Office: Room 122 Collins Classroom Center

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/7153464115>

Office Hours: 1:00 - 1:50 on Mondays and Wednesdays and by appointment.

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: 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

- Each module has a [Recommended Completion Date](#). If you adhere to those completion dates, here's how your work on the modules would be distributed over the semester:

September							2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	Welcome & Getting Started	Welcome & Getting Started	Welcome & Getting Started	Welcome & Getting Started	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Welcome & Getting Started	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	
26	27	28	29	30			
Module 1	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2			

October							2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
					Module 2	Module 2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	Module 2	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Module 2	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	Module 3	
31							
Module 3							

November							2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	Module 4	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Module 4	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	
28	29	30					
Module 5	Module 5	Module 5					

December							2021
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
			Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	Module 5	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Module 5							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

Modules 1-5 have the following components:

- A [Welcome Page](#) that briefly introduces you to the module.
- [Learning Resources](#) that include
 - ✓ [A Handbook](#) for the chapter in the module.

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.

It's a good idea to read the handbook before you read the chapter in order to get a sense of the material covered in the chapter.
 - ✓ [A Reading Schedule](#) for the chapter in the module.
 - ✓ [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. The reading schedule is intended to serve as a suggested reading guide to keep you on track while preventing you from becoming overwhelmed.
 - ✓ [More 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 module 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 module. You may complete the assessments after that date. The assessments 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 achieve that score. (Learning doesn't need to be stressful.) Once you've achieved the required scores on each of the assessments in a module, you will be able to progress to the next module. (If a module isn't open for you, check to see what assessment or task you still need to complete in the previous module.)

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.)

If circumstances arise that prevent you from attending class for an extended period of time, please let me know and we can explore your options.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by the number of modules you complete by the end of the semester, by the number of modules you complete by the recommended dates, and by the number of participation points you earn.

Grade	Modules 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	Module 1	Last day of Finals Week	0	
D+	Modules 1-2	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C-	Modules 1-3	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C	Modules 1-4	Last day of Finals Week	0	
C+	Modules 1-5	Last day of Finals Week	0	
B-	Modules 1-5	Complete any <u>one</u> module by its recommended date	1-3	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	Modules 1-5	Complete any <u>two</u> modules by their recommended dates	4-6	
B+	Modules 1-5	Complete any <u>three</u> modules by their recommended dates	7-8	
A-	Modules 1-5	Complete any <u>four</u> modules by their recommended dates	9-10	
A	Modules 1-5	Complete all <u>five</u> modules by their recommended dates	11-12	

Determining Your Grade

You can use these tables to keep track of your progress and determine your grade.

	Column 1	Column 2
	Put a "Yes" in this column if you complete the module by the end of the semester.	Put a "Yes" in this column if you complete the module by the recommended date.
Module 1		
Module 2		
Module 3		
Module 4		
Module 5		
Count the "Yes's" in each column and put that number here.	(1)	(2)

	Put a "Yes" in this column if you get a participation point for the week.
Participation 01	
Participation 02	
Participation 03	
Participation 04	
Participation 05	
Participation 06	
Participation 07	
Participation 08	
Participation 09	
Participation 10	
Participation 11	
Participation 12	
Participation 13	
Participation 14	
Count the "Yes's" and put that number here.	(3)

# in (1)	# in (2)	# in (3)	Grade
0	0	0	F
1	0	0	D
2	0	0	D+
3	0	0	C-
4	0	0	C
5	0	0	C+
5	1	1-3	B-
5	2	4-6	B
5	3	7-8	B+
5	4	9-10	A-
5	5	11-12	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 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!