

PHILOSOPHY 121: CRITICAL THINKING

Schedule: Rooms 466 in Marshfield & 238 in Wausau

Lecture: Monday, 2:00 – 2:50 PM in Marshfield & Wausau

Discussion Sections:

- M01: Tuesday, 2:00 – 2:50 PM in Marshfield
- W01: Thursday, 2:00 – 2:50 PM in Wausau

Instructor: Dr. Ryan T. O’Leary

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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.

Textbook: Dona Warren, *Critical Thinking* (assessable via Canvas)

Discussion Section Readings:

- ✓ Bertrand Russell, *The History of Western Philosophy*, “Introduction”
- ✓ William Clifford, “The Ethics of Belief”
- ✓ William James, “The Will to Believe”
- ✓ Anselm of Canterbury and Gaunilo of Marmoutiers, “Ontological arguments”
- ✓ Tom Regan, “The Radical Egalitarian Case for Animal Rights”

Attendance Policy: In this class attendance and participation are necessary to getting a good grade. Each absence beyond the third will result in three points being deducted from the student’s final score. If for any reason you need to miss a significant part of the course, it is your responsibility to work out appropriate accommodations with the instructor.

Electronics Policy: 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. Students will need to print electronic reserve readings to bring them to class.

EVALUATION & GRADING

This course is largely self-paced.

To move from one module to the next, you will need to meet or exceed a designated score on each assessment in your current module. You will be able to retake all the assessments as often as you like until you reach mastery.

You will be graded according to a standard 100-point distribution, based on points earned, minus points lost for excessive absences.

Your grade will be a function of how far you get by the last day of finals week. Obviously, I hope that you will work through to the end and get an A because the skill set you will build is more valuable the farther you get in the course, but it's up to you!

Grade Based on Points

Earned

97 - 100 = A+
93 - 96 = A
90 - 92 = A-
87 - 89 = B+
83 - 86 = B
80 - 82 = B-
77 - 79 = C+
73 - 76 = C
70 - 72 = C-
67 - 69 = D+
63 - 66 = D
60 - 62 = D-
0 - 59 = F

RECOMMENDED COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule will help you pace yourself, keep up in discussions, and earn more points!

Week 1 – January 28: *Critical Thinking*, “Getting Started”

Week 2 – February 4: *Critical Thinking*, Chapter 1

Week 3 – February 11: Bertrand Russell, *The History of Western Philosophy*, “Introduction”

Week 5 – February 25: *Critical Thinking*, Chapter 2

Week 6 – March 4: William Clifford, “The Ethics of Belief”

Week 7 – March 11: William James, “The Will to Believe”

Week 8 – March 18: *Critical Thinking*, Chapter 3

Week 10 – April 8: Anselm and Gaunilo, “Ontological arguments”

Week 12 – April 15: *Critical Thinking*, Chapter 4

Week 13 – April 22: Tom Regan, “The Radical Egalitarian Case for Animal Rights”

Week 15 – May 13: *Critical Thinking*, Chapter 5

POINTS	Chapters Completed	Timing of Completion	Notes
0	None	Last day of Finals Week	Remember, every absence beyond the third subtracts three points from whatever points you have earned!
60	Chap. 1	Last day of Finals Week	
65	Chap. 1-2	Last day of Finals Week	
70	Chap. 1-3	Last day of Finals Week	
75	Chap. 1-4	Last day of Finals Week	
80	Chap. 1-5	Last day of Finals Week	You'll get a solid set of critical thinking skills and a B- in the course if you maintain good attendance and complete Chapter 5 by the last day of Finals Week.
85	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>one</u> chapter by its recommended date	By completing some chapters by the recommended dates, you'll pace your learning and improve your grade.
90	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>two</u> chapters by their recommended dates	
95	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>three</u> chapters by their recommended dates	By completing some chapters by the recommended dates and maintaining good attendance, you can earn a high grade.
100	Chap. 1-5	Complete any <u>four</u> chapters by their recommended dates	
110	Chap. 1-5	Complete all <u>five</u> chapters by their recommended dates	This pacing and application will enhance your retention of what you learn and make this course even more valuable.

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 depend a lot on how much effort and time you invest. It also asking 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).

DUO Student Support: The DUO Center, located in room 107 on the Marshfield campus and room 224 on the Wausau campus, is open to first-generation students, Pell Grant-eligible students, and students with disabilities on the Marshfield and Wausau campuses. It provides students with access to professional tutors in Math and writing. DUO staff meet one-on-one with students to answer questions, prepare for assignments/exams/papers, and simply as a resource to students. Students can meet with the tutor/s regularly or on an as-needed basis – in other words, they support individual students in individualized ways. To learn more about DUO, contact your adviser or stop by the DUO Center.

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

Academic Difficulty

Academic & Career Advising Center
715-346-3226, uwsp.edu/acac

Disability Services & Assistive Technology

715-346-3365, uwsp.edu/dtac

Tutoring-Learning Center

715-346-3568, 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

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

Alcohol or Drug Use

Center for Prevention
715-346-3121, uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv

Bias or Hate Incidents

Office of the Dean of Students to report
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Diversity and College Access

715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Concerning Behavior

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Employment

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Family Crisis or Emergency

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Financial Insecurity

Enrollment Services Center/Financial Aid
715-346-3300; 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

Financial Literacy - Online
[GradReady Program](#)

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

Food Resources

The Cupboard - Stevens Point campus
715-346-4700, 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

Identity and Difference

Diversity and College Access
715-346-4076, uwsp.edu/dca

Involvement

Campus Activities and Student Engagement
715-346-4700, uwsp.edu/centers/case

Legal Questions

Student Legal Services
715-346-4282, uwsp.edu/dos/sls

Loss of Family Member or Friend

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

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

Mental Health Concerns

Counseling Center (confidential services)
715-346-3553, 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

University Police
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Non-academic Misconduct

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, uwsp.edu/dos

Physical Health / Injury

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

Procedural Issue or Conflict

Office of the Dean of Students
715-346-2611, 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

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

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

University Police and Security Services
715-346-3456, uwsp.edu/protsv

Title IX

Haeryon Kim, 116 Old Main, 715-346-
3020, 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

