



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy

PHIL 145 Spring 2023

Critical Thinking

Tuesday 18:30-21:20, SJ2 2002

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Adam Woodcox
Office: Sweeny Hall 2111
Phone: 519-884-8111 (extension 28343)
Office Hours: Tuesday 17:30-18:30 or by appointment
Email: awoodcox@uwaterloo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of basic types of reasoning, structure of arguments, critical assessment of information, common fallacies, problems of clarity and meaning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be better able to identify, evaluate, and create arguments.

REQUIRED TEXTS

William Hughes and Jonathan Lavery (2015) *Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills*. Canadian Seventh Edition. ISBN: 978-1554811991

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Assignments (x2)	20% (10% each)	June 13, July 25
Midterm Examination	30%	June 20
Final Examination	40%	TBD
Attendance & Participation	10%	

Assignments: There will be two assignments due throughout the term, each worth 10% of the course grade. Assignments will consist of short writing exercises to assess the student's understanding of the concepts and skills studied in that section of the course.

Examinations: The mid-term examination will be held in class on June 20th. Students will be

responsible for all material up to (and including) chapter 8 of the textbook for this examination. The final examination will be scheduled to be written during the end-of-term exam period. The final examination will be cumulative.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics, Readings, Deadlines</u>
Week 1	
May 9	Introduction to Reasoning and Critical Thinking <u>Reading:</u> N/A
Week 2	
May 16	Meaning and Definition <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 1 & 2
Week 3	
May 23	Clarifying Meaning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 3
Week 4	
May 30	Reconstructing Arguments <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 4
Week 5	
June 6	Strategies for Assessing Arguments and Truth-Claims <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 5 & 6
Week 6	
June 13	Assessing Relevance and Adequacy <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 7 & 8 ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE
Week 7	
June 20	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Week 8	

June 27 Deductive Reasoning
Reading: Ch. 9

Week 9

July 4 Inductive Reasoning
Reading: Ch. 10

Week 10

July 11 Scientific Reasoning
Reading: Ch. 11

Week 11

July 18 Moral Reasoning
Reading: Ch. 12

Week 12

July 25 Irrational Techniques of Persuasion and the Media
Reading: Ch. 15 & 16
 ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE

August 4—August 19 FINAL EXAMINATION

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 19: Last day to add a class
- May 29: Last day to drop a class, no penalty
- July 18: Last day to drop a class, receive a WD grade

POLICY ON LATE WORK, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, AND MAKE-UP TESTS

If you require accommodation for this course, please let me know as soon as possible and we will work together to ensure that you are properly accommodated. There will be make-up examinations only if exams are missed for valid and documented reasons. Unless arrangements are made beforehand or an official doctor's note is provided, late assignments will be deducted a 5% penalty per day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance and participation are expected and will be evaluated at 10% of your final

grade. If you cannot attend a class due to self-isolation, please let me know ahead of time and I will be sure to excuse your absence. I will not provide a recording of the class you miss, but I will be happy to meet to review the material once you have recovered.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Students are not permitted to use cellphones during class, but may use laptop computers for the purpose of notetaking.

CORRESPONDENCE

Please contact me by email. Be sure to include your name and the course code. I will try to respond within 24 hours.

COVID CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the case of short-term or long-term cancellation of in-person classes, we will switch to synchronous online meetings using MS Teams. Course requirements and assessment will remain unaffected. In the case of cancellation of in-person (midterm or final) examinations, I will provide alternative take-home examinations to be written within a designated period of time.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances.](#) When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

All of us need a support system. The SJU faculty and staff encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed. On Campus:

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 x32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7:

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#).

Download [UW and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. St. Jerome's University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

CHOSEN/PREFERRED NAME

Do you want professors and interviewers to call you by a different first name? Take a minute now to verify or tell us your chosen/preferred first name by logging into [WatIAM](#).

Why? Starting in Winter 2020, your chosen/preferred first name listed in WatIAM will be used broadly across campus (e.g., LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Note: Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents. For more details, visit [Updating Personal Information](#).

Important notes:

- If you included a preferred name on your OUAC application, it will be used as your chosen/preferred name unless you make a change now.
- If you don't provide a chosen/preferred name, your legal first name will continue to be used.