



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

## St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Philosophy

PHIL 145 Winter 2023

Critical Thinking

Monday 18:30-21:20 SJ2 2002

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Adam Woodcox  
Office: SH 2114  
Phone: 519-884-8111 (extension 28343)  
Office Hours: Monday 17:00-18:00 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)	Feb. 13, Apr. 3
Midterm Examination	30%	Feb. 27
Final Examination	40%	TBD
Attendance & Participation	10%	

Assignments: There will be two take-home 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 February 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 (April 13<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>). The final examination will be cumulative.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topics, Readings, Deadlines</u></b>
Week 1	
January 9	Introduction to Reasoning and Critical Thinking <u>Reading:</u> N/A
Week 2	
January 16	Meaning and Definition <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 1 & 2
Week 3	
January 23	Clarifying Meaning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 3
Week 4	
January 30	Reconstructing Arguments <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 4
Week 5	
February 6	Strategies for Assessing Arguments and Truth-Claims <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 5 & 6
Week 6	
February 13	Assessing Relevance and Adequacy <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 7 & 8 ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE
Week 7	
February 20	READING WEEK — NO CLASS
Week 8	

February 27	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Week 9	
March 6	Deductive Reasoning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 9
Week 10	
March 13	Inductive Reasoning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 10
Week 11	
March 20	Scientific Reasoning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 11
Week 12	
March 27	Moral Reasoning <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 12
Week 13	
April 3	Irrational Techniques of Persuasion and the Media <u>Reading:</u> Ch. 15 & 16 ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE
April 13-April 28	FINAL EXAMINATION

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- January 20: Last day to add a class
- January 27: Last day to drop a class, no penalty
- March 24: 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 with the professor 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/](http://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/](http://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](mailto: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.