

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY

KIN 2292F

**Critical Thinking and Ethics in Kinesiology**

**Professor:** Dr. Angela Schneider      **Location:** TH 4165  
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**TA:** TBA      **Email:** TBA  
**Office hours:** TBA

Classes: Tuesdays 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm & Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm

Classroom: Spencer Engineering Building 2202

**Course Description**

The course is designed to achieve two primary objectives. The first objective is to introduce the student to basic critical thinking. Some of the skills to be taught are: a) problem of identifying the premises and conclusions of arguments; b) standardizing an argument; c) finer points about conclusions such as, degree of certainty, and unstated conclusions; d) problem of missing premises; e) used of the principle of charity; f) language problems, such as, ambiguity and vagueness; and g) grades of reasoning, such as, clear and compelling to fallacious and sloppy. A good critic can reconstruct the best version of the argument under appraisal by constructing chains of reasoning. The second objective is to apply critical reasoning to some basic moral theory and to develop the student's understanding of moral reasoning. The theories we will draw from may include classical and more modern theories such as: a) virtue theory; b) ethical relativism; c) ethical egoism; d) utilitarianism; e) Kantian theory; and f) Feminist ethics. The student will then take those techniques and apply them to issues in Kinesiology. These issues will come from, for example, the area of doping in sport, as they arise in the various settings in Kinesiology.

**Course Textbook:**

**“Ethics in Sport” edited by W. Morgan, in Bookstore.**

**Objectives**

l) - introduce the student to basic critical thinking.

- i.e. identifying the premises and conclusions of arguments; finer points about conclusions such as, degree of certainty; language problems, such as, ambiguity and vagueness; and grades of reasoning, such as, clear and compelling to fallacious and sloppy.
- reconstruct the best version of the argument under appraisal by constructing chains of reasoning. settings in Kinesiology.)

II) - apply critical reasoning to ethical issues in sport and Kinesiology. (e.g. doping in sport, Fair Play, violence in sport, gender and sport, etc. as they arise in the various examples.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. **Identify and delineate** theoretical terms, concepts related to critical thinking. (Knowledge – remembering & understanding) (weekly readings & class discussions).
2. **Compare and contrast** theoretical approaches to critical thinking using examples of ethics in Kinesiology and Health Sciences. (Analysis – understanding & applying) (weekly readings, class discussion, & essay exam).
3. **Synthesize** research and apply theoretical knowledge as it relates to a particular research topic on the application of critical thinking to Kinesiology and Health Sciences. (Comprehension – analyzing & evaluating) (essay exam & final paper).
4. **Develop** skills in writing research papers and presentations pertaining to each student's particular area of interest (Application – understanding & applying) (essay exam and final paper).
5. **Further develop** abilities to *critically reflect* upon each student's own learning and relate to the topics discussed in class. (Evaluating & creating) (final paper).

### **Practical matters**

The classes are interactive; it is essential that you come prepared to discuss the issues. To help you do this you need to complete the assigned readings.

### **Assignments**

The assignments are individual work and must be presented as such. This means that while you may well wish to discuss the assignment you must prepare and present your own work.

## Course Evaluation Summary

Date Due	Work	% of final grade
Weekly	Class Attendance & Participation	20%
Mid term		40%
Final paper		40%

### 1. *Class Attendance & Participation (20%) DUE: Date(s)- weekly*

The topics or issues for class discussions will be drawn from our current readings, news items or media reports. Class attendance and class participation are worth 20% of the final grade.

### 2. *Mid Term Exam (40%) date Tuesday November 15th*

Each student will be required to write the mid term exam. The exam will be written in a university computer lab on a computer with a word processing program. The exam will be an essay answer format. The professor will give the students a list of potential questions in advance and will then select from that list for the final exam questions. The exam will be graded out of 40 marks and will be based on the student's knowledge, comprehension and analysis demonstrated through their written answers. The work on critical reflection in the weekly discussions and readings will help to prepare the student for writing the exam.

### 4. *Final Research Paper (40%) DUE: date Last class Tuesday December 6th*

Students will write a final research paper on a topic to be agreed upon between the student and the professor. The paper should be 1200 words. An essay outline is required for approval in advance. The students will be given an outline structure to follow. The paper will be graded out of 40 marks and the assessment will be based on the student's ability to demonstrate critical reflection through the application of knowledge and skills learned in the course.

*Note: These points serve as the basis for the evaluations in this course.*

**\*\*\*The Outline & Reading Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class by the instructor**

## Course/University Policies

1. **Lateness/Absences:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date and will not be accepted late, except under medical or other compassionate circumstances. Electronic submission of assignments will not be

accepted (unless otherwise specified) under any circumstances. Submitting a late assignment without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. Appropriate documentation for assignments worth less than 10% should be submitted to the Undergraduate office. A missed mid-term examination without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. The course policy is not to allow make-ups for scheduled midterms, presentations or final exams, nor to assign a grade of Incomplete without acceptable and verifiable medical (or equivalent compassionate) reasons. Acceptable reasons might include hospital stays, serious illness, family emergencies (like serious accidents or illness, death) or similar circumstances.

2. **Written documentation:** Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. stating specific reasons and dates. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted directly, as soon as possible, to the appropriate *Academic Counselling Office* of the student's Faculty/School of registration not to the instructor, with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. See <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> for specific policy and forms relating to accommodation.

3. **Grades:** Where possible assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment or feel that it is unfair in any way, you must wait 24 hours from the receipt of the assignment to approach the instructor or TA. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to attention immediately.

4. **Scholastic offences:** They are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

A) Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic

Calendar). All required papers might be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)

B) Computer marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. **Formatting** (*as recommended by the course instructor*): example- APA style is one of the approved style of writing for all assignments produced for this course. Please refer to Western University Library webpage for information on citation style and format or consult the APA publication manual: Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2009). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

6. According to the **Examination Conflict policy**, “A student who is scheduled to write more than two examinations in any 24-hour period may request alternative arrangements through the office of their Academic Counsellor.” *\*This policy does NOT apply to mid-term examinations.* There will be no make-up for the mid-term exam. Students who miss this exam with a valid reason will have the final re-weighted accordingly.

7. **Classroom Behaviour**: Class will begin promptly at the time specified at the top of page one of this syllabus. In the event that you must arrive late, please enter the classroom with a minimal disturbance to the class. The right to lock the classroom door and deny entrance, if lateness becomes a common occurrence, is reserved by the professor. Excessive talking during class time is disruptive, disrespectful, and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in such behaviour may be asked to leave the room. Cellular phones, pagers, and text-messaging devices are disruptive when they ring in class. If you must bring these with you, please place them on silent mode or turn them off during class. Failure to do so may result in your being asked to leave.

8. Laptops for the **purpose of typing lecture notes** are permitted in class, but please be respectful to your fellow students and turn the sound off. If complaints are received from other students regarding noise or other disruptive behaviour (e.g., watching videos on YouTube.com, updating your Facebook status, playing Solitaire), your classroom laptop privileges will be revoked.

9. Audio and/or videotaping of lectures is not permitted unless approval has been sought from the instructor in advance.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

## **ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES**

Visit the website <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health --  
<http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>