

Phil 1200: Principles of Reasoning, Syllabus

Spring 2015, 8:35-9:30 am – Ellis, Room #E028

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: 8:35-9:30 am

MWF

Place: Ellis 028

Call Number: 5722

Section Number: 108

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Chris Arledge

Office: 220 D Ellis Hall

Hours: By appointment

email: arledgechris@gmail.com; ca973613@ohio.edu

General Information

Description

This course is an introductory course in logic. Logic is the study of our capacity to reason, in both thought and language. In this course we will aim to define, sharpen, and refine concepts and skills you already possess; for, if you did not possess the capacity to reason, you surely would not have made it this far along in life. How much your capacity to reason improves will be entirely up to you, as the work you put in will determine the sum of your reward.

Expectations and Goals

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts in logic, with particular attention paid to identifying key features of arguments, sharpening your reasoning skills, and making a relevant connection between logic and your particular major(s).

Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading and the assignment for the day. The implied premise in the preceding sentence is that you come to class and do the assigned work. You are also expected to conduct yourself and your discussion in a professional, well-reasoned manner – This is not Facebook or Twitter, and I will not tolerate any derogatory talk; respect is not earned, it is maintained, and should be your default position.

*You are expected to ask me questions when you do not know the answers. You have my personal email because I want to make sure I receive and respond to your questions in a timely manner. If you get stuck on a problem, or do not know where to start, send me an email (you may include a picture) and tell me where you are stuck and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

The goal of this class is to make you more proficient at reasoning. This goal will be achieved by learning how to correctly name the key features of logic, and by practicing different methods for testing and proving your grasp of these skills.

Policy

Attendance: If you miss a class, you are responsible for all of the material covered. This includes homework, which will be assigned in class.

Homework: There will be 26 homework assignments given. The homework problems will all be derived from the Hurley text, so it is imperative that you have the text on hand. I will drop the lowest of the 26 grades at the end of the semester, leaving you with 25 assignments. The assignments are due the following class period and if turned in late only half credit will be given.

Tests / Final: There will be 5 in-class tests and a cumulative in-class final exam. All tests and the final exam will be closed-book and no notes will be permitted. Each test is worth 10% of your final grade; all 5 tests combined total 50% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your final grade. The scheduled date for the final exam is Wednesday April 29 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Ellis 028.

*A note about testing days: once tests are handed out, you will not be permitted to exit the classroom for any reason until your test is submitted to the instructor so take care of personal needs prior to the test.

**Anything discussed in class will be fair game for tests so pay careful attention. Please do not ask me every class period if you need to know what we are discussing for the test. The answer is always yes, though I will be more clear about the test content on review days.

*** Tests are mandatory.

Identifying Your Work: Be sure your name is written on all assignments that you submit. Work with no name will receive 5 points off the final grade. Furthermore, should this occur, it is your responsibility to see me during office hours to ensure your grade has been properly recorded.

Late Work: Make-ups for missed tests typically will not be given. Exceptions include cases where there is a serious and legitimate reason for the missed homework or test (such as illnesses, family deaths, births, etc.); the exception must be discussed with me and documentation is necessary in these circumstances. Late homework assignments will only be given half credit for completion unless there are extenuating circumstances such as the ones mentioned above.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. You are responsible for upholding the Code of Conduct. Violations of the Code will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. Furthermore, if academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is observed, the student will fail the course automatically and will be dismissed for the remainder of the semester.

Policy on Students with Disabilities: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Course Materials

Required Materials

The assigned textbook (listed below), yourself, a notebook and a pencil.

- You may not use a laptop, tablet or any other electronic device during class! You are permitted to purchase and utilize an e-book but make sure you realize that you will not be able to access the e-book in class and

therefore may want to print the required pages to bring with you. Cell phone use is prohibited during class time and I expect phones to be silenced and put away (unless you have discussed an emergency situation with me prior to the start of class).

• Required Text

Hurley, Patrick. *A Concise Introduction to Logic*. Edition: 12. Publisher: Cengage Learning/Thompson Custom Publishing. Approximate Price: \$90.00. Required.

See the following website for purchasing options:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/PHIL1200>

***Any of the books on this site are acceptable for class use, but you will be unable to access e-books in class and so the Ohio University custom edition (called the *Custom Preset: A Concise Introduction to Logic Traditional*) is the best/cheapest print option.**

***You may also purchase previous editions of the book for use in the course (which is much cheaper) but there may be some discrepancy between the 12th edition and previous editions in regards to page numbers and problem sets, so be forewarned.**

*Notes On Schedule: Reading assignments denote the reading due for that class period. For instance, the section 1.1 reading is due for class on 8/27 and we will be discussing the content of the section.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Topic	Reading
1/12	Introduction	n/a
1/14	Arguments	1.1
1/16	Recognizing Arguments	1.2
Week 2	Topic	Reading
1/19	No Class (MLK day)	
1/21	Deduction and Induction	1.3
1/23	Review	1.2-1.3
Week 3	Topic	Reading
1/26	Test 1 (Covers everything above)	
1/28	Fallacies: General & Relevance	3.1 & 3.2
1/29	Fallacies: Weak Induction & Others	3.3 & 3.4
Week 4	Topic	Reading
2/2	Fallacies in Ordinary Language	3.5

Week 1	Topic	Reading
2/4	Review	3.1-3.5
2/6	Test 2 (Covers Unit 3)	
Week 5	Topic	Reading
2/9	Symbols and Translations	6.1
2/11	Symbols and Translations	6.1
2/13	Truth Functions	6.2
Week 6	Topic	Reading
2/16	Truth Tables	6.3
2/18	Truth tables	6.4
2/20	Truth Tables	6.5
Week 7	Topic	Reading
2/23	Truth Tables	6.5
2/25	Review for Test 3	
2/27	Test 3 (Covers unit 6)	
Week 8	Topic	Reading
3/2	Spring Break	
3/4	Spring Break	
3/6	Spring Break	
Week 9	Topic	Reading
3/9	Argument Forms/Fallacies	6.6
3/11	Rules of Implication	7.1
3/13	Rules of Implication	7.2
Week 10	Topic	Reading
3/16	Rules of Implication	7.1 & 7.2
3/18	Review	
3/20	Test 4 (Covers sections 6.6-7.2)	
Week 11	Topic	Reading

3/23	Rules of Replacement I	7.3
3/25	Rules of Replacement II	7.4
3/27	Rules of Replacement II cont.	7.4
Week 12	Topic	Reading
3/30	Recap of 7.1 – 7.4	
4/1	Review for Test 5	
4/3	Test 5 (Covers sections 7.3-7.4)	
Week 13	Topic	Reading
4/6	Conditional Proof	7.5
4/8	Cont. Conditional Proof	
4/10	Indirect Proof	7.6
Week 14	Topic	Reading
4/13	Probability	11.1
4/15	Probability	11.2
4/17	Probability	11.1-11.2
Week 15	Topic	Reading
4/20	Review for Final	
4/22	Review for Final	
4/24	Review for Final	
Week 16		
4/27	No class	
4/29	Final Exam: 8:00 am in Ellis 028	

**** Note: I reserve the right to alter the schedule during the duration of the semester if I think we need more time to cover a topic than I have scheduled. The above schedule is the projected roadmap but it is not graven in stone.**

Grading: You should keep up with your grade for this class, however, I will use blackboard to record your grades for your convenience. If you ever have questions about your grade, you should ask me to provide feedback. In this class you will have 5 tests that cover the material up to each, and a comprehensive final exam.

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Five in class exams = 50% (worth 10% each)

Homework = 25% (lowest score dropped)

Final Exam = 25% (Wednesday December 10 at 8:00 am)

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit opportunities on each quiz and the final. There may also be extra credit opportunities for those who attend a philosophy department guest lecture (times and dates to be announced) and who submit a short paper discussing the content of the lecture.