



CTY SUMMER PROGRAM FINAL EVALUATION

Site:

Instructor: Todd Kukla

Student: Adam Cheong

Course: Logic: Principles of Reasoning

Teaching Assistant: Wael El Khateeb

Date: August 15, 2023

Congratulations, Adam, on successfully completing Logic: Principles of Reasoning.

Overall Performance

Your overall performance in this class was outstanding. You demonstrated a mastery of the core concepts we studied and successfully applied these concepts to a range of logical topics, including informal logic, propositional logic, and the evaluation of philosophical arguments.

Content Proficiency

The work you submitted on writing assignments, exercises, and reviews was excellent. Your submissions displayed a penchant for formal and informal logic. On the first week review, you wrote a solid essay on the difference between deduction and induction, and you correctly answered many difficult questions on fallacies. For example, when asked to analyze the argument, "since killing an innocent person is wrong, and the fetus is an innocent person, therefore abortion is wrong," you identified the core problem with the argument. You said, "some don't consider fetuses humans," and you explained that "human being" in premise 1 refers to a "conscious and understanding human," which does not apply to a fetus. You saw that the argument equivocates on the term "human being." On the second week review, you tackled translations, truth tables, and proofs skillfully. You solved the final proof in nineteen lines, and your solution revealed your firm grasp of the rules of replacement.

Critical Reasoning

Your solutions to philosophical and logical problems were creative and insightful. On one occasion, during our discussion of Immanuel Kant's philosophy, you raised a problem with his theory of punishment. According to Kant, suicide is wrong for the same reason that killing another person is wrong, and you astutely deduced from his view that if the death penalty is deserved for murder, then the death penalty should also be deserved for suicide attempts. You gave a *reductio ad absurdum* of Kant's theory, for Kant would never accept this consequence but yet it logically follows from his view. On another occasion, during the philosophers on trial activity, you raised an important problem with the growth of technology. Your main argument was that technology takes away more jobs than it creates, especially easy jobs available to everyone. Overall, you regularly identified key problems with arguments and raised strong objections.

Collaboration and Participation



You made many valuable contributions to class discussion and group work. During the second week debates, you provided an excellent closing statement for your team. You addressed each objection raised by the opposing team, and you responded to problems raised by the audience. One of your strongest points was that even if eliminating homework increases government expenditures, the funds are supplied through general taxation and therefore can appropriately be used to improve school conditions. Your closing statement provided a solid rebuttal and was an asset to your team's performance.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Wael and I strongly encourage you to continue your study of logic and philosophy by viewing Yale's online course offerings. I recommend that you explore the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy and that you listen to philosophy podcasts, such as The Partially Examined Life.

It was a pleasure teaching you. Wael and I wish you the best in pursuing your future goals!