

# PHI 152 2018 Fall Syllabus

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Location	Pawling 301
Instructor	Dan Sheffler
Email	daniel_sheffler@georgetowncollege.edu
Web	<a href="https://sage.georgetowncollege.edu/course/view.php?id=4052">https://sage.georgetowncollege.edu/course/view.php?id=4052</a>
Schedule	<a href="http://dansheffler.com/phi152schedule/">http://dansheffler.com/phi152schedule/</a>
Presentations	<a href="http://dansheffler.com/phi152presentations/">http://dansheffler.com/phi152presentations/</a>
Semester	Fall 2018
Credit Hours	3

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## Required Texts

- *The Art of Reasoning 4th ed*, by David Kelley (Norton, 2014) ISBN: 978-0-393-93078-8. **You will need at least the e-book version in order to gain access to the online homework system.**

## Course Description and Learning Outcomes

In this course we will learn the fundamentals of logical reasoning. We will start by learning about the building-blocks of logic such as words, sentences, definitions, explanation, and informal fallacies. This first section will enable you to break down bits of logic (both good and bad) that you encounter in every-day life and it will also help you articulate and improve your own logic. We will then cover the basics of categorical syllogisms before moving into formal symbolic logic. This section will give you the basics that you

need to go further in more technical uses of logic such as in philosophy, law, or computer science. We will end the semester with a brief section on probabilistic or inductive reasoning, that will equip you with the basics necessary to go further in statistical forms of reasoning such as in science or sociology.

## Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Assessment
To analyze and formulate every-day uses of logic.	Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 homework, midterm.
To work with syllogisms and Venn diagrams	Chapters 6 and 7 homework, final.
To complete simple symbolic proofs	Chapters 9 and 10 problem sets, final.
To analyze basic uses of inductive reasoning.	Chapter 12 homework, final.

## Grading

Homework	40%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

The first portion of your grade will come from regular assessment quizzes. These will be completed on through the OLI homework system associated

with your textbook: <https://community.oli.cmu.edu>. Each class period I will cover one or two sections of material and you are responsible for completing the relevant assessment quiz online *before the next class period*. You will also find practice questions that you can use before you take the assessment quiz and have helpful feedback, but these will not count toward your grade and are optional.

In the middle of the semester, you will take a midterm covering chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5. At the end of the semester you will take a final covering chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12.

**Grading Scale:**

(I round all values to the nearest whole percent.)

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A	100–90%
B	89–80%
C	79–70%
D	69–60%
E	59–0%

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## Attendance

Although attendance does not compose its own segment of the grade, it is mandatory and failure to attend class will adversely impact your grade. Roll will be taken at the beginning of every class period. Perfect attendance will result in an extra credit of +2 percentage points. The first 2 unexcused absences will not count against you, but beginning with the 3rd absence, each absence will subtract 2 percentage points from your final grade. This goes

to a **limit of 7 unexcused absences** at which point you can no longer pass the class. For your reference:

Number of Absences	Percentage Change to Final Grade
0	+2
1	0
2	0
3	-2
4	-4
5	-6
6	-8
7	-50

I keep track of absences by calling roll at the beginning of each class. If you do not respond when I call your name (perhaps because you are not there) you will be marked as absent. This means that if you walk in late it is your responsibility to check in with me each and every time. Lateness, especially if egregious or repeated, may be counted as an absence for the day. You are always welcome to look at your record and I encourage you to do so because it is your responsibility to keep track of how many absences I have recorded. This is especially important for students who are in danger of failing the class because of absences. I probably will not notice when you have six absences, so I am unlikely to notify you when you are in danger of failing.

Whenever a student knows in advance that he or she will miss class (as for a scheduled college-sponsored activity), the student should discuss

the absence with me prior to the event, and the student's participation in the event should be confirmed by a communication from the event sponsor. When a student's participation in college-sponsored activities or other scheduled events will require multiple absences, the student should discuss the potential for those absences with me prior to the end of the first week of classes.

Students missing class or an exam due to an excused absence (e.g. for sickness) bear the responsibility of informing me about their absence within one week following the period of the absence and of providing appropriate documentation for the absence. Excused absences are not taken into account in the above adjustment to the final grade. It is entirely the student's responsibility to make up missed work. Make up work (including exams) must be submitted within one week of return to class. In general, I do not excuse on-line assignments.

## **E-mail and Internet**

You are expected to have an active e-mail account that you check regularly. Section related announcements will be made via e-mail (e.g. if I am sick, pointers for home work, change in due dates). Also, e-mail is the best way for contacting me outside of class.

You are expected to have access to a stable internet connection as reading quizzes are carried out through Moodle. I will not reset quizzes because of internet trouble (doing so is simply too easy to abuse and has been in the past). Instead, I will be dropping the lowest reading quiz score for everyone.

## **Respectful Behavior**

Mature, respectful behavior is expected in class. The primary concern is that all students are able to enjoy a focused, helpful classroom. This means that I expect you will among other things: arrive to class on time, stay awake, refrain from taking cell phone calls, playing games, or doing work for other classes. I will warn you once during a semester if a particular behavior is disruptive. If this behavior happens again, I may ask you to leave resulting in an absence for the day.

Class time is primarily focused on discussion of the material for which I expect you to be fully engaged. For this reason, I prohibit the use of electronic devices in class.

## **Academic Integrity**

Cheating robs other students of a fair grade. If it is determined that a student has cheated, all students involved will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. If the case is egregious, I will direct the case to the appropriate university dean for official sanction. Please see the Academic Honesty Policy in your Student Handbook.

## **Disability Accommodations**

If you are registered to receive accommodations for a disability, please discuss them with me during the first week of class. You will need official documentation from Lloyd Clark in the Wellness Center (x7074).