

PHIL 2303: Intro to Logic

Fall 2016, MW 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm, Live Oak Hall 215

Instructor: Daniel Padgett

Office: Pecan Hall 102

Office Hours: MW 9–12 (in PH 102), 2–3 (PH 102), 4:45–5:30 (in LOH 215)

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Nature and methods of clear and critical thinking and methods of reasoning such as deduction, induction, scientific reasoning, and fallacies. This course fulfills the Language, Philosophy, and Culture foundational component area of the core, and addresses the following required objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

2. COURSE OVERVIEW

There are two main goals for this course: (i) to teach you how to evaluate arguments in everyday English, and (ii) to teach you the language of propositional logic. In many ways, (i) is partially accomplished through (ii) since the skills you will learn increase your ability to understand the way that language works and how ideas are communicated. So, you might instead say that the overall goal of this course is to teach you the skills to make you a more rigorous thinker. And becoming a better thinker has many applications: helping you think through big and small decisions in life, determining whether you should believe what someone is telling you, and providing the basis for understanding programming languages, to name but a few.

Class time will be split between lecturing and working through problems. Since propositional logic is a language, one with which you are likely unfamiliar, I will provide background information so that you can better learn the language. Once we have the required terminology on the table we will work through problems to better grasp how the language works. As with any language, practice makes perfect. Thus the time spent working through problems is at least as important as the lecture material itself.

3. REQUIRED TEXTS

This course has one required text:

- *Logic: An Emphasis on Formal Logic*, by Stan Baronett (ISBN: 978-0-19-026621-9)

This book is the main resource for the course. Lectures, discussions, and the content of the book will provide all of the content you need to understand logic.

There may be occasions on which the reading for class will not come from the required text. I will distribute electronically the reading for those courses at least one week prior to discussion, when it is possible to do so.

4. COURSE POLICIES, ATTENDANCE, AND GRADING

4.1. Course Policies. This syllabus is a supplement to the one found on Concourse. If there is a conflict between this syllabus and the one listed on Concourse, the policies on

Concourse over-rule the ones listed here. Please refer to the concourse syllabus for official NVC course policies.

4.2. Syllabus Revisions. I am open to modifying the schedule (listed below) to help you better understand the material. On the first day of class (and perhaps at several points during the course) we will assess how the course is going and may make changes to the syllabus as necessary. Any changes will be communicated both in class and via Canvas (through an announcement or an email).

4.3. Attendance. It is important that you attend class and I am required to monitor attendance. If you stop attending class and fail to submit assignments on time, I may drop you from the course. You skip class at your own peril.

4.4. Grading. Your final grades depends on your homework grades and your test scores and is weighted as follows:

- Assignments: 25%
- Test 1: 15%
- Test 2: 15%
- Test 3: 15%
- Final Exam: 30%

Assignments. There will be no more than eight (and no less than three) assignments given throughout the semester. These assignments are meant to check how well you understand the material before you are tested on it. The assignments may be in-class assignments or homework assignments. If I give all eight assignments, I will only count your seven highest grades when calculating this portion of your grade.

Tests. There are three tests throughout the semester, and they are not cumulative. Test one covers chapters 1 and 4, test two covers chapter 7, and test three covers chapter 8.

Final. The final is on the last scheduled day of class and should take most of the scheduled time to complete. It will be cumulative.

Extra Credit. At my discretion, I may make available extra credit assignments.

4.5. Late or Missing Assignments. You are expected to turn in graded work by the due date. In general, late assignments will not be accepted and will be given an automatic zero. If you need an extension, you must ask at least 24 hours *before* the deadline and explain why you need an extension; I will determine whether to grant an extension on a case by case basis. (Don't assume you will be given an extension just because you asked for one.) With the exception of the final, I will allow you to submit one assignment late and without penalty for up to two days past the deadline; after that, you will lose 10% off of your grade for that assignment for each day it is late (i.e.: no penalty for submitting the assignment 0 to 2 days after the deadline, 10% off if it's 2 to 3 days late, 20% off if it's 3 to 4 days late, and so on).

4.6. Grading Scale.

- A 90–100%
- B 80–89.9%
- C 70–79.9%
- D 60–69.9%
- F Below 60%

4.7. **Academic Integrity.** Discussion with others is encouraged: answering questions about a topic is often the best way to learn. However, assignments and tests are to be done individually. Collaborating on tests and assignments will be considered cheating. The appropriate steps will be taken for those suspected of cheating. For more information, see the Student Code of Conduct [here](#).

5. COURSE OUTLINE

Prior to class you should complete the assigned reading so that the terms we discuss are not entirely unfamiliar, and so that you can bring questions about the material as well. Do not attempt the exercises until after class, since it's likely that the exercises will be much easier once we've discussed the material in class.

Week Of	Subject	Reading
8/22	Introduction and Basic Concepts	Ch 1
8/29	Fallacies	Ch 4
9/5	No class Monday , Fallacies	Ch 4
9/12	Fallacies, Analyzing an argument	Ch 4, Foer (On Canvas)
9/19	Review and Test	
9/26	Translations	Ch 7
10/3	Translations and Truth Tables	Ch 7
10/10	Truth Tables	Ch 7
10/17	Review and Test	
10/24	Proofs	Ch 8
10/31	Proofs	Ch 8
11/7	Proofs	Ch 8
11/14	Review and Test	
11/21	Induction	(On Canvas)
11/28	Induction, Review	(On Canvas)
12/5	FINAL EXAM , 5–7:45 pm	Note start time!