

**INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC
(PHIL 110)
SPRING 2007**

Instructor: Eric Wilson

E-mail: eewilso@learnlink.emory.edu

Office Hours: M/W (1:00-2:00 PM) & by appointment

Office Location: 711 Emory Street

Course Description:

When you study logic you study something you've already been doing most of your life: *reasoning*, or *making inferences*. Making inferences is like connecting the dots that make up a picture, or recognizing how things hang together. It's a way of making connections. For example, if you're lactose intolerant, and you discover that the food on your plate contains ricotta cheese, you'll probably *infer* or *conclude* that you shouldn't eat it. Studying the rules and patterns that govern this ability can be fascinating. The study of logic also enlarges our capacity to recognize, analyze and evaluate arguments. In this course, we shall focus on a species of inference or argument called "deduction." First we shall examine deduction in a formal context. You will learn how to use rigorous methods to determine the truth-values of complex propositions, as well as test arguments for validity using truth tables, the inference rules of natural deduction, and the basics of quantificational logic. Then we will study deductive arguments in an informal setting, examining the sort of reasoning found in everyday contexts. This part of the course will introduce you to the basics of speech act theory, as well as some of the tools needed to analyze the rhetorical dimension of real-life arguments.

Required Text:

There is no textbook for this course. The readings are available via E-Reserve. It is your responsibility to download and print all material. You must bring the assigned material to class.

Course Requirements:

- Six or seven exams (100 points each)
 - Count on an exam every two weeks or so. Exact dates will be announced at least two or three classes in advance.
 - Make-ups will be given only in the event of documented emergency. No exceptions.
- Attendance, participation, and overall progress will also factor into the final grade.
 - I strongly recommend that you attend all classes. Arrive on time and prepared to get involved. Discussions and in-class exercises will help you prepare for the exams.
 - If you miss six or more classes, you cannot pass this course.

The Fine Print:

Inside the Classroom

- Expect to get involved in class discussion. This is not a lecture-based course. You must take charge of your own education.
- Expect to spend a significant amount of time doing in-class exercises. For the most part, you will not get "credit" for this work. But you will be rewarded by an increased understanding of the material, which will help you to perform well on the exams.
- You must do the assigned homework. Again, you will not get direct credit for this work, but it will be impossible to master the material without doing the homework. All assignments will be announced in class. It is your job to stay on top of this.
- Please come to class on time. Tardiness signifies a lack of respect for the teacher and your fellow students.

Outside the Classroom

- My office hours are **M/W, 1-2:00 PM**.
- My office is located at **711 Emory Street**. Of course, it's never a bad idea to let me know ahead of time that you'll be stopping by. But please feel free to drop in unannounced. You don't need an appointment. I'll be happy to answer questions, discuss assignments, or just have a conversation about anything related to the course.
- You may also contact me via e-mail (Learnlink address above). I check my e-mail once a day. Normally, I'll be able to reply to any message within 24 hours. But don't expect a prompt reply in the wee hours of the morning. And if you send me something over the weekend, I may not see it until the following Monday. So bear all that in mind.
- If you need extra help, please do not hesitate to contact me and/or visit the weekly SI sessions (more on that below).

Grades

- Each exam is worth 100 points.
- Exams will be graded on a point system. The scale is as follows: A = 94-100, A- = 90-93, B+ = 87-89, B = 84-86, B- = 80-83, etc. etc.
- For the most part, your grade for the course will be determined by the average of your exam scores.
- Again, however, attendance, participation, and overall progress will also factor into the final grade.
- You are free to contest grades you feel are unjust. However, you must do so in accordance with the following policy. All complaints must be registered in writing. Complaints must be typewritten and may not exceed 250 words. They must take the form of an argument designed to persuade the teacher that his evaluation of your work is mistaken. I will respond to the complaint either in writing or by discussing the grade directly with you. Under no circumstances will I discuss grades before the above procedure has been followed.

SI & Class Conference

- There will be an SI for this course. The SI will hold regular sessions designed to help prepare you for the exams. I advise you to take advantage of this opportunity. SI sessions provide the chance to go over homework and address problems in a relaxed setting with a fellow student who has already demonstrated mastery of the course material.
- The SI is not your personal tutor. He or she is responsible for providing extra help during the SI sessions and *that's it*. If you require help beyond what the SI can provide during the SI sessions, please see me.
- We will have a LearnLink Conference for this course. It is your job to check the conference on a regular basis. Check for assignments, schedule changes, announcements, etc.

Honor Code

- All students are expected to adhere to the honor code of Oxford College at all times.
- Any and all suspected violations of the honor code will be prosecuted.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

The pace of the course will be determined by our progress in class. At the beginning of each week, the course assignments for the week will be posted on the LL conference. Once we have established a comfortable rhythm, I will post the assignments further in advance. We will cover the following topics in roughly the following order:

- I. Introduction to basic logical concepts.
- II. Propositional logic: truth tables
- III. Propositional logic: methods of deduction
- IV. Quantificational logic: methods of deduction
- V. Informal logic
 - Speech act theory
 - Rhetorical analysis
 - Close reading and analysis
- VI. Moral reasoning

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: Read Ernest Lepore, "A Brief Introduction to Key Terms" (E-Reserve). Do all exercises.