

**PHIL 110: Introduction to Logic**

**Fall 2007, TT 1:00-2:15**

**A. Özgür Gürsoy**

**Office Hours: Thursdays 4-5 pm, or by appointment @ Humanities 205**

**Content:** We tend to demand reasons, from ourselves and from those with whom we interact. Not only that, we tend to think that one *ought* to give reasons for his/her beliefs and actions. Logic is considered to be the study of the methods and principles used to distinguish correct and incorrect, good and bad, reasoning. This course will provide an introduction to logic through a study and practice of the basic principles of argumentation, deductive and inductive reasoning. Regular practice will be an essential component of the course, since it will aim to develop skills in identifying and evaluating what *counts as* a good reason.

**Texts:**

- *Understanding Arguments: An Introduction to Informal Logic*, Robert J. Fogelin & Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. (F)
- *Introduction to Logic*, Irving M. Copi & Carl Cohen. (CC) (We will use only the formal logic material from this text, and I have made these available on e-reserve.)
- If time permits, I will also make available certain articles on e-reserve; these will serve as the basis of some of our discussions.

**Requirements:** Four exams during the semester (4x20% each), final exam (15%), participation (5%).

The numerical/letter grade conversion scheme is as follows: 93-100=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, ..., 65 and below=F.

You will have seen that there are classes devoted exclusively to discussion. For these sessions you, as a group, will pick a topic interesting enough to stimulate debate; you will then write a one-page (double-spaced) outline of your argument that will help orient you in class. I will not grade these outlines, but they will be one of the factors determining your participation grade. During these sessions I will act only as a facilitator, and you will be speaking to each other. Our goal will be to apply some of the abstract patterns we study in class, develop and sharpen reasoning and speaking skills, and get clearer about our differences even when we do not reach a consensus.

**Note:** The honor code will be effective in this class. If you are uncertain about its details, you may ask me or consult your student handbook. You are expected to attend every class on time. If, however, you will have to miss a class for a legitimate reason, please notify me no later than 5 pm on the day of that class. Failure to attend more than one class without a legitimate reason will result in a reduction of 5 percentage points from your overall grade.