

Philosophy 210: Logic and Argument: Graham School MWF 1:00-1:50

Instructor: Jason Cather office: Warde N413; office hours: 2:00-3:00 W/F
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Synopsis:

This course will cover syllogistic and propositional logic. We will begin by examining validity and soundness, then translate declarative sentences into syllogistic logic. We will move on to propositional logic, proofs, and induction, and finally a discussion of informal fallacies.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

- > distinguish soundness and validity of arguments
- > assess the validity of arguments they encounter
- > construct their own well-reasoned arguments

Credit Will Be Given For the Following:

- a) Midterm 1: February 19th (20% of final grade)
- b) Midterm 2: (25% of final grade)
- c) Final Exam (30% of final grade)
- d) Homework sets and quizzes (25% of final grade)

No extra credit or makeup credit will be offered.

A Note on Your Homework and Quiz Grade

You are expected to complete your homework on at least level 7. If you do all of your homework at level 7 and make 100% on every quiz, you can earn up to 100 points for your H/Q grade. If you complete your homework at level 8 or level 9, you will have the opportunity to earn more than 100 points on your H/Q grade. You are encouraged to do this! The extra points will be “insurance” for your quiz grades (i.e. you can miss some questions on a quiz and still earn the full 100 points on the final H/Q grade). *HOWEVER*, these insurance points will *not* transfer to the other grades. *Please do not ask me for this - the answer is no.*

A Note on Exams and Quizzes

All devices must be turned off (or on silent) and left in your bags under your desks during exams and quizzes. No use of these devices is permitted during an exam or quiz. If you leave the classroom, you are not permitted to return during the exam or quiz. Any violation of this policy will be considered cheating. Any communication between students during exams or quizzes will be considered cheating. All exams and quizzes are closed book, and the use of notes or textbooks will be considered cheating. Any cheating on an exam or a quiz will result in a grade of zero for that exam or quiz.

Course Policies:

1.) Use of technology in the Classroom: I strongly advise taking notes on paper (cf. “materials” below). Please do not allow your laptops, tablets, phones, etc. to be a distraction to you, your fellow students, or to me. Take care of all socializing (e.g. facebook, texting, emails) outside of our classroom. If you need to use your phone for whatever reason, you may quietly leave the classroom and return when you are finished. If you cause a distraction, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class, even if we are near the end of class. You may return the next day of class with

a clean slate. To clarify: if *you* are capable of quietly leaving and taking care of your business, you may return to class, provided you can do so without disruption. If *I* have to ask you to leave, you will be dismissed for the day. In either case, *you* are responsible for whatever you missed. Do not ask me to repeat it, it is *your responsibility*.

2.) On emailing me: Students are encouraged to email me if they have substantive questions concerning the material we are discussing in class (provided they were in attendance.) You should, however, **not** email me to tell me that you have missed, or will miss, a class. You should also **not** email me to ask what you missed in a class for which you were not in attendance or to ask if you can make up the assignment (you cannot). There will be regular quizzes designed to test you on the material covered up to that point in the semester. There will be no make-up quizzes offered — the same holds true for the Midterms and the Final.

3.) Blackboard: Homework assignments, revisions to the syllabus, and grades will be posted to the blackboard site.

Attendance and Participation: There are no make-up tests or quizzes. Record the test dates now and do not miss on those days. I expect you to attend and participate every day. Logic is very challenging, and more than any other aspect of philosophy, it is *cumulative*. If you do not put in the time and effort to master the earlier topics, you will be lost as the course progresses. While your final grade will not be directly penalized for absences, I will take attendance for my records, and you will not be able to succeed if you are absent regularly. Your grades will reflect this fact.

Texts:

Harry Gensler: *Introduction to Logic*

LogiCola software: <http://harryhiker.com/lc/index.htm>

Other Short Selections TBD (to be placed on Blackboard)

Materials:

1.) Students are required to bring paper and a pencil or pen to each class. There will be regular quizzes and short writing assignments to be completed and turned in during the class. Loose leaf or detachable paper is suggested for this purpose. I **strongly** recommend that notes be taken on paper. I strongly *discourage* taking notes on your computer. This will actually be to your advantage because we will be using symbols, diagrams, and tables, all of which are difficult to format on a computer at the pace we will be proceeding.

2.) Reading and homework assignments will be listed on blackboard. I will announce all readings and assignments in class. You are expected to check this regularly. If you miss class or forget to write them down, check blackboard first and then ask another student in the class. Do not email me requesting the assignment.

2.) Your homework will be done via Gensler's LogiCola program. Students are required to download the program. It is available for free at <http://harryhiker.com/lc/index.htm> and can be downloaded directly to your computer, or placed on a flash disk and used on any computer. The program allows you to retake the problem set as many times as you like, and to report your highest scores.

3.) I am aware that many study guides and homework solutions are available online. You may use these to help you study, but you are expected to do the homework on your own. This is, of course, on the honor system - I assume that my students have the integrity to do their own work. Cheating on your homework will not help you to understand the material, but will actually prevent you from learning it. More importantly, whatever 'points' you might earn from cheating are not worth compromising your integrity. At the end of your life, you probably will not remember or care about the grade you made in this class. You *will* reflect on whether you lived with honesty and integrity.

Division of Course: We will adjust the schedule as necessary but this is our plan. I have listed the chapters are listed from Gensler's book (1.2 = chapter one, section two; etc.).

I. weeks 1-2: Validity and Soundness (See assignments for selections from Chapters 1 and 2)

II. weeks 3-4: Sylogistic Logic (See assignments for selections from Chapters 1 and 2)

IN CLASS EXAM 1: February 7th

III. weeks 5-9: Propositional Logic (Chapter 6, selections and schedule TBA)

IV. weeks 10-12: Deductive and Inductive proofs (Chapters 5 and 7, selections and schedule TBA)

IN CLASS EXAM 2: April 14th

V. weeks 13-15: Informal Fallacies (Chapters 3 and 4, selections and schedule TBA)