PHL 121 Introduction to Logic

Course Description and Syllabus

Fall, 2009
Office Hours: MWF, 10-11:15, and by appt.
Email: ejloomis@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Dr. Eric Loomis
Office: HUMB 124
Phone: 460-6248

Course Description: Logic is the science of correct reasoning. The primary object of study in logic is the argument. In this course we will study ways to recognize, assess, and construct arguments. We will learn the forms that arguments can take and the properties that they must have in order to be good.

This course will be of value to anyone interested in improving their reasoning and argumentative skills. It will also be of value to those who wish to develop formal proof writing skills.

Course Goals and Objectives:
1. Cultivation of an improved ability to recognize and evaluate arguments.
2. Development of basic proof writing skills.
3. Introduction to central logical concepts and techniques.

Course Policies and Procedures:
Attendance: Attendance in lectures is expected. Since testable material is regularly introduced in lectures, it is impossible to miss class frequently and still do well in the course. Attendance plays a direct role in your grade; see Evaluation below.

Late Papers: Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class period in which they are due for full credit. Late papers must be turned-in by the start of the next class meeting; after that they will not be accepted. All accepted late papers are penalized a flat 10%.

Make-up Work: I am willing to re-schedule assignments for individuals who have a legitimate reason for doing so. If you know you are going to miss an exam date, you must notify me at least two class days in advance in order to receive a make-up. Unless you have made a prior arrangement with me, missed exams may be made up only in case of a documented emergency.

Disabilities Policy: If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Students Services). The Office of Special Students Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Academic dishonesty includes cheating on tests and homework as well as plagiarism. If you engage in academic dishonesty, I will notify you that you will receive an ‘F’ in the course. Upon being notified, you have five days to submit a written request to the department chairperson for a hearing on the matter, if you wish to have one. If no hearing request is made, or if the decision from the hearing goes against you, you will receive a course grade of ‘F’. Please see the Student Academic Conduct Policy of the University for details.

Note on homework: Naturally you may study with other students, but do your homework on your own. I can (and have) discovered plagiarized homework: in such cases the above-stated policy applies.

Procedures for Assessment of Student Performance: Given that you adhere to the course policies, your grade will be determined on the basis of graded assignments as specified below:

Evaluation:
6 Graded homework assignments: 40%.
Two Mid-term examinations: 15% each.
Comprehensive final exam: 20%
Class attendance: 10%

- Homework assignments will be given a few days before they are due. They may include some online components.
- The exams will consist of proofs and problems similar to those done for homework and in class.
- Your class attendance score is determined as follows:
  0 unexcused absences: 10/10
  1-2 unexcused absences: 9/10
  3-4 unexcused absences: 7/10
  5 unexcused absences: 5/10
  6 unexcused absences: 3/10
  More than 6 unexcused absences: 0%

The number of unexcused absences is determined at the end of the semester by counting the number of times your name is missing from the sign-in sheet that I pass through the class most days.


This is a web-enhanced course, and in addition to the text there is an online component, *My Logic Lab*, so you need a computer with online access. Homework assignments may include some online elements, and will be announced in class.

Syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

*Week starting_______ Topic and Assignments*


8/24  Validity, inference types. Chapter 1, continued. Evidence and logical structure. Chapter 2, pp. 43-81.

**Homework #1 assigned 8/28, due 9/4.**


9/7   Informal Fallacies and Rhetoric, cont. **Homework #2 assigned 9/11, due 9/18**

**Labor Day Holiday 9/7.**

9/14  Informal Fallacies cont.


**Exam #1, Wednesday, 9/23.**


10/5  Chapter 5, Truth-tables, cont.

10/12 Chapter 6, Rules of Inference, pp. 196-247.

**Homework #4 assigned 10/12, due 10/19**
10/19  Chapter 6, cont.  
   Homework #5 assigned 10/23, due 10/30

10/26  Chapter 6, cont.

11/2  Chapter 6, cont. Review for Exam #2.  
   Exam #2 Friday 11/6


11/16  Inductive Analysis, cont.  
   Homework #6 assigned 11/18, due 11/23.

11/23  Inductive Analysis, cont.  
   Thanksgiving Holiday 11/26-8.

11/30  Review for Final. Last class day.

Final Exams  
8:00-8:50 class: Friday, Dec. 4, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
11:15-12:05 class: Monday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.