

Philosophy 6 Logic in Practice
Summer 2015

Instructor: Rick Mayock

Required Text: Hurley, Patrick J., *A Concise Introduction to Logic*

Lectures will be delivered in the form of Modules that correspond to relevant sections of the text. Students are responsible for the following material from the text:

Chapter 1 Basic Concepts

- 1.1 Arguments, Premises and Conclusions
- 1.2 Recognizing Arguments
- 1.3 Deduction and Induction
- 1.4 Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency
- 1.5 Argument Forms: Proving Invalidity

Chapter 2 Language: Meaning and Definition

- 2.1 Varieties of Meaning
- 2.2 The Intension and Extension of Terms
- 2.3 Definitions and Their Purposes

Chapter 3 Informal Fallacies

- 3.1 Fallacies in General
- 3.2 Fallacies of Relevance
- 3.3 Fallacies of Weak Induction

Chapter 4 Categorical Propositions

- 4.1 The Components of Categorical Propositions
- 4.2 Quality, Quantity, and Distribution
- 4.3 Venn Diagrams and the Modern Square of Opposition
- 4.4 Conversion, Obversion and Contraposition
- 4.5 The Traditional Square of Opposition

Grading Procedure:

Grades will be determined by three exams and several assignments. Each exam will be worth 100 possible points, and the combined assignments will be worth a total of 100 points. The final grade will be determined by the total points earned in the exams and assignments (a possible 400 points).

Tentative Dates for Exams and Assignments:

Assignment 1 6-19
Assignment 2 6-21
Assignment 3 6-24
Exam 1 6-28
Assignment 4 7-1
Assignment 5 7-5
Assignment 6 7-8
Assignment 7 7-12
Exam 2 7-15
Assignment 8 7-19
Assignment 9 7-22
Assignment 10 7-24
Exam 3 7-26

Welcome to Philosophy 6, Logic in Practice. The purpose of this class is to help students to think more clearly, critically and competently, and to sharpen their ability to reason and evaluate arguments.

Why should we believe someone's opinions, views or positions on any topic? How do we know that our own positions and views are correct or acceptable? How do we best convince others of our point of view? Why do some arguments work and others fail?

These questions are addressed in the discipline of logic, which focuses on the technical structure of arguments and provides us with the tools to evaluate the reasoning process. The study of logic enables us to develop and strengthen the skills of correct reasoning. These skills can be applied to a variety of areas and disciplines. For these reasons, logic is both a theoretical and a practical discipline.

This course serves as an introduction to logic with an emphasis on arguments as they occur in ordinary language. Students will develop the skills to evaluate the reasonableness of claims as they occur in language in a variety of disciplines. They will be able to determine why some arguments are successful and others are not. In

addition, students will learn how to construct arguments that are convincing and preserve the truth of claims being argued for.

We will learn to evaluate both the structure and content of arguments, examine the distinction between deductive and inductive reasoning, investigate issues of clarity that arise in language, and explore formal and informal fallacies. Traditional Aristotelian logic will be introduced, as well as modern symbolic logic, including categorical and propositional logic. An emphasis will be placed on the practical application of these evaluative skills to arguments as they occur in all types of disciplines.

Like all skills, the study of logic requires practice, and the more work one puts into developing these skills, the more one benefits from the study of logic. The course will be arranged into several conceptual topic areas, or **Modules**. These modules correspond to the relevant chapters in the text and should be studied along with the text.

In addition, students will be directed to several **Assignments** to be completed. The assignments are arranged to help students to practice evaluating arguments, and to prepare them for the exams. Students will be expected to do all of the assignments, and to participate in the class discussions. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

There will be three **Exams** during the course of the semester. All students must take the exams during the scheduled times. The final grade for the course will be determined by a combination of points earned in the **Assignments**, group **Discussions** and in the **Exams**.

Students will be required to purchase one textbook: Hurley, Patrick J., *A Concise Introduction to Logic*. **Any edition of this book is acceptable--you do not have to buy the most current edition.** The bookstore at West LA College carries the book but feel free to look on-line for a used copy (which will likely be less expensive) and have it next day delivered. **It is imperative that you get the book as soon as possible. Be sure that if you purchase the text online that it is the Hurley text--no other other logic textbooks are authorized for this course. There will be assignments due within the next few days, and you will need the text in order to complete the assignments.**

Please check the Home page for Announcements, for any updates and revisions to the schedule, due dates for assignments and exam dates. Also get familiar with using the Discussion tool for any questions relating to the course. Do not send me a private email with questions about the class--I will not respond. The Discussion tool is the place for questions and comments, which affords your classmates the benefit of hearing (reading) any questions, comments and responses.