

Syllabus: Phil 150-01, Spring 2012
Introduction to Logic

Instructor: Richard Fry

Email: rjf38@georgetown.edu

Office hours time: Thursday, 3:30-4:30PM,
Place: New North 223

Class meeting time: T/R, 5:00-6:15PM
Meeting place: Walsh 499

Course Description: Others give us reasons to believe things every day: oftentimes these reasons come in the form of *arguments*, or structured sets of claims in support of some conclusion. Some of these arguments are convincing and some are not. The goal of logic is to figure out how the convincing arguments work and establish rules to determine whether or not we should be convinced by others. In doing so, we need to look at two different types of argument others give.

We'll spend the first part of the semester looking at arguments that aim to establish their conclusions with certainty. In looking at these arguments, we'll work with systems like syllogistic logic (*All men are mortal, Socrates is a man, therefore...*) and truth-functional logic. (*IF Socrates is a man, THEN he is mortal. Socrates is a man. Therefore...*) Turning our common-sense notions of what results from these simple sets of claims into a full logical system is more work than you might think, but that's just what we'll do.

We'll spend the rest of the semester looking at arguments in which the conclusions only probably follow from the claims. We're given reasons like this all the time; sometimes these kind of arguments come from statistics, sometimes from scientific experimentation. The kind of reasoning at work here is fundamentally different, and we'll spend some time trying to make sense of the rules for this sort of reasoning as well.

Required Text:

Wayne Davis, *An Introduction to Logic*
published by Kynos Press
2nd Edition (2007), ISBN: 9780978544546
or Paperback (2011), ISBN: 9780978544584
Available in the GU Bookstore or online

The Honor Code and Plagiarism:

You are expected and required to uphold standards of academic honesty in this course. Plagiarism of ideas or words is unacceptable. Familiarize yourself with what counts as plagiarism:
<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/system/53377.html>

The Honor Council (<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/>) adjudicates cases of suspected academic dishonesty. In effort to uphold this university's high standards, I will submit any and all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Honor Council, who will investigate. Confirmed academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course.

You are encouraged to work together on homework assignments, but no working together on tests will be tolerated.

Policies:

Preparedness: You are responsible for being prepared for class. This includes reading assigned material, thinking about it so that you can ask questions and arriving on time and bringing your textbook to every class meeting.

Attitude: You are responsible for comporting yourself in an appropriate manner. This includes both actively participating in discussion as well as treating other members of the class with respect and courtesy. Laptop use is prohibited.

Due Dates: You are responsible for turning in your work on time. Each 24 hours or portion thereof that a piece of written work is late will result in the subtraction of 10% from the grade. All work more than a week late will receive an 0.

Under some circumstances, it is possible to get an extension for written work because of illness, injury or family emergency. If you think you need an extension, email me *as soon as possible* with a brief description of your situation and how long you think it will take you to resolve the issue. We will then work out a timeframe for the extension. Extensions must be requested before the assignment is due.

Make-up tests will be given only with a note from your dean or a medical professional.

Grades: if you believe the work you submitted deserves a different grade than it received, you may ask *in writing* for reconsideration. Your request must be submitted *within one week*, but no sooner than *two days after* the assignment is returned. Your written request *must explain why* you believe the work deserves a different grade. Most appeals will not result in a change of grade, but if a change is made please note that the grade may be either higher or lower.

I reserve the right to adjust final grades to reflect performance in the latter half of the course.

Assignments and Assessment

More details and dates for these assignments will be distributed during the term.

- (1) **Homework:** There will be four homework assignments over the course of the semester. These will count for **24%** of your grade.
- (2) **Tests:** There will be three tests over the course of the semester, each addressing different material. Because the skills you develop in the first section of the course will be used in the second section, and the skills you develop in the second section will be used in the third section, each test will count progressively more for your final grade. The first test will count **15%**, the second will be worth **20%**, and the final test will count **30%**.
- (3) **Short Paper:** For your final assignment you will analyze a short argument that you found in popular media or culture today. This will count for **10%** of your final grade.
- (4) **Free %:** You will get **1%** of your grade for free, no matter what, because I'm nice like that.

Class Schedule: Phil 150-01, Spring 2012
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Tuesday		Thursday
		12 January - Introduction <i>1.1 - 1.2</i>
17 - Claims and Non-Claims		19 - Arguments & Non-Arguments <i>1.3</i>
24 - Soundness & Validity <i>2.1 - 2.3</i>		26 - Soundness & Validity <i>2.4 - 2.5</i>
31 - Syllogistic Logic - <i>H1 Due</i> <i>5.1 - 5.2; 5.8</i>		2 Feb - Translation / Review
7 - Test #1		9 - Propositional Logic <i>7.1 - 7.2</i>
14 - Propositional Logic <i>7.3; 7.6</i>		16 - Propositional Logic <i>7.4 - 7.5</i>
21 - Propositional Logic - <i>H2 Due</i> <i>7.7 - 7.8</i>		23 - Propositional Logic <i>8.1 - 8.2</i>
28 - Propositional Logic <i>8.3 - 8.4</i>		1 Mar - Propositional Logic - <i>H3 Due</i> <i>8.5</i>
13 - Review		15 - Test #2
20 - Quantifiers <i>9.1 - 9.3</i>		22 - Quantifiers <i>9.4</i>
27 - Quantifiers - <i>H4 Due</i> <i>9.5</i>		29 - Review
3 Apr - Test #3		5 - Easter, no class
10 - Inductive Logic <i>2.1 - 2.6</i>		12 - Inductive Logic <i>3.1 - 3.2</i>
17 - Inductive Logic <i>3.3 - 3.4</i>		19 - Inductive Logic <i>4.1 - 4.2</i>
24 - Inductive Logic <i>4.3 - 4.4</i>		26 - Wrap up

Final paper due 5 May @ 2:30PM, by email

Resources: Phil 150-01, Spring 2012
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Academic Resources

Academic Resource Center: Leavey center Suit 335
<http://ldss.georgetown.edu> and arc@georgetown.edu

The Academic Resource Center arranges accommodations for students with disabilities and provides assistance with study skills.

Writing Center: 217A Lauinger Library
<http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu> and writingcenter@georgetown.edu

The Writing Center provides one-on-one assistance with academic writing skills. Their website also has many useful links for improving your writing.

Scholarly Research and Academic Integrity

Resources are available at <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/academic-integrity/refresher-tipsheet>

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Health and Wellness Resources

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS): Eastern Side of Darnall Hall
(202)687-6985 and <http://caps.georgetown.edu>

24-hour doctor on-call: (202) 444-PAGE

CAPS is a primary mental health resource assisting students in overcoming difficulties that interfere with the attainment of their personal and educational goals.

Health Education Services: 207 Village C West
(202)687-8949 and <http://healthed.georgetown.edu>

Health Education Services is comprised of health professionals who are available to help students deal with a range of health issues, including pregnancy, alcohol and drug issues, eating disorders, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and stress management. All services are individualized, confidential, and free for students.

Student Health Center: Ground Floor, Darnall Hall
Appointments: (202)687-2200; General info: (202)687-4500
<http://shc.georgetown.edu>