

Philosophy 207: LOGIC

Spring Semester, 2013

Classroom: FILENE 115
M 8:00am – 8:55 am
& T/TH 8:10am- 9:30 am
Credits: 4.0

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I. Course Overview:

Logic is the study of the principles and methods for determining the validity and invalidity of arguments. It is also a discourse concerning the philosophical basis and use of those principles and methods. In logic, we specifically consider *deductive reasoning* (as opposed to *inductive reasoning*), which gives rise to a rich, abstract theoretical structure that is both of intrinsic interest and practical importance. Identifying and understanding the general inferential moves and the principles of deductive reasoning improve one's ability not only to reason effectively about pragmatic matters, but also to discover when a specific line of reasoning is not effective.

This course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts and achievements of modern logic. To accomplish this, we will first review the historical roots of logic beginning with Aristotle. Further, we will discuss the applicability of logic in context to both philosophy in particular and to 'real-world' matters in general. We will be discussing such matters as: the nature and general features of deductive arguments, logical form, argument validity and soundness, symbolization, truth-functional logical connectives, and various methods for determining argument validity - including the techniques for constructing formal deductive proofs and evaluating such proof as valid or invalid.

II. Required Text:

Introduction to Logic (14th Edition) by Copi, Cohen, & McMahon
ISBN 9780205820375

III. Course Requirements:

Midterm Exam I: 20%
Midterm Exam II: 20%
Final Exam: 40%
Homework: 10%
Participation: 10%

IV. Various Class Policies:

1.) Homework Policy:

There will be (potentially several) weekly homework assignments. The homework serves to provide practice with the techniques presented in class. This class builds on previous skills as it progresses. *It is therefore crucial that you keep up with the assignments.* I encourage – really, I *urge* – you to work together on homework assignments!

Each homework assignment will be graded 10, 5, or 0. A 10 will be earned for assignments done correctly or mostly correctly. A 5 will be earned for assignments which are complete and by which it is evident that you have worked hard to do the work – even if the work is wrong. A 0 will be earned for missed assignments or those that are just utterly deficient and display no effort on your part. Late homework will not be accepted.

Additionally, you will be given a weekly logic puzzle on Fridays. These are to help you think “outside of the box,” are for fun, and are not required. BUT, if you attempt to solve 10 of them, you will receive extra credit sufficient to increase your grade by 1/3 of a grade.

2.) Attendance Policy:

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL CLASSES. An absence will only be excused via a note from the Student Health Services or the Dean of Studies. I reserve the right to lower your grade by 1/3 of a grade for each and every unexcused absence. (Example: If you earned an “A-,” but missed 4 classes, you will receive a “C+.”) Please do not arrive late to class. Your tardiness will distract me, distract other students, and is just plain rude. I reserve the right to count your tardiness as an unexcused absence.

3.) Electronic Gizmo Policy:

I have a zero tolerance policy pertaining to the use of electronic devices in class. If you are found using electronic devices during class, you will be asked to *leave* class for the day. Your absence will be noted and will count against your grade. I will apply this rule if a) your cell phone rings, b) you are found using a laptop, iPod, or cell phone, c) you are online for *any* reason, and/or d) you are texting or sexting during class. This list is not meant to be exhaustive.

4.) Academic Integrity:

Pursuant to the Skidmore College Honor Code, academic dishonesty of any kind, including cheating on exams or quizzes, will not be tolerated. Note: use of electronic devices during an exam will be considered cheating and treated as a breach of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty will result in an immediate “F” in the course accompanied by a letter to the Dean, which screw up your chances of ever getting into grad school because it will remain in your Skidmore College Academic Record until you die.