“PRACTICAL LOGIC”

Syllabus

Course: PHIL-A-201-001 (Fall 2008)
Schedule: TR 9:30-10:45 (Mercy 201)
Instructor: Dr. Dittmar Dittrich
Office: Bobet 439 A
Office hours: M 3:30-4:30, W 12:30–1:30, and by appointment
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N.B.: The text used in class is a custom printed version of Patrick J. Hurley’s A Concise Introduction to Logic. This version is called the Traditional Logic Edition, and has been bundled with specific software (i.e. ‘Learning Logic’ and ‘CNOW’). The ISBN for the entire package is 0495748412, and it has been ordered by the Loyola Bookstore.

- The instructions for enrolling online for ‘CNOW’ are available on Blackboard.
- The supplementary student companion website for the book can be accessed through the following link: Hurley Companion Site

Course Description:

In compliance with the description in the Undergraduate Bulletin the course will concentrate on the application of practical logical techniques with regard to the analysis and formulation of rational arguments. Particular attention will be given to discerning premises and conclusions in an argument, the explanation of informal fallacies, categorical propositions and syllogisms, Venn diagrams, as well as propositional logic.

As logic is essential to any form of communication, a systematic and differentiated understanding of the strategies of practical logic will constitute the primary objective of the course. Consequently, it is designed to develop the capacity to evaluate the stringency of arguments as well as to construct sound arguments. It will thus examine the requirements for reasons to count as sufficient evidence and will deconstruct the inconsistencies underlying fallacious ways of arguing. This will be carried out in detail through the explanation of diverse principles and methods that can be used as distinguishing criteria.
By means of studying the form, components and characteristics of deductive arguments, and particularly the link between premises and conclusion, the course will facilitate proficiency in the comprehension of the central concepts of logic and in their application to actual examples.

**Goals and Objectives of the Course:**

Please consult the Department of Philosophy: Goals and Learning Objectives ([http://cas.loyno.edu/philosophy/programs.html](http://cas.loyno.edu/philosophy/programs.html)) for majors and minors. This Course has been designed to satisfy Goal 2, Objective 1 of the Department of Philosophy: Goals and Learning Objectives for Majors and Minors. It thus undertakes to develop the students’ ability to identify rightly types of arguments, argument forms, premises and conclusions, and cogently to distinguish strong from weak argumentation.

**General Policies and Assignments:**

The attendance of all classes is essential and mandatory, particularly since the participation in the class and in the discussion of the assigned readings and exercises constitutes a substantial part of the course work. Also, the contribution to the class will be reflected in the final grade.
Six or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Absences may only be excused -at the instructor’s discretion- after the presentation of written documentation certifying significantly serious reasons, viz. illness or family emergencies. This documentation, if needed, should only be presented at the end of the semester.

The current assignments consist of the preparation of the specific reading from the textbook for each class and the corresponding exercises. A selection of these exercises will be posted on the ‘CNOW’ website as assigned homework and will have to be completed online before the beginning of the respective class session. The results of the student’s homework will be taken into account as an important component of the participation grade. Each student will also give an oral presentation of the topic of one of the readings and the leading of the following classroom discussion. The presentation shall be given on a regular class day as assigned at the beginning of the semester.

The general assignments will be three exams. The exams will generally consist of multiple choice type questions; the first exam will be based on material covered during the first part of the course, whereas the second exam will focus on the second part and the third exam on the third part. If unable to attend a class, it is the student’s responsibility to make up the work from other students.

The mid-term grade will be based upon the grade of the first exam. The following four components will constitute the final grade for the course in equal parts:
First exam .............................................................. (25%)  
Second exam ............................................................ (25%)  
Third exam .............................................................. (25%)  
Participation ............................................................ (25%)  

The **first** exam will be given on **September 25**,  
the **second** exam on **October 23**, and  
the **third** exam on **November 13**.

- As the exams will be graded with a Scantron machine, each student will need a sufficient supply of **Scantron answer sheets** (50 questions with 5 answer options each) and **number 2 pencils** for the examinations. These items are available at the Loyola Bookstore.

- **Make-up exams will only be given for the reasons specified above as justifying excusable absences.**

**General Observations:**

- Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact **Disability Services** at 865-2990 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. Disability Services are located in the Academic Resource Center, Monroe Hall 405.

- **Classroom conduct** as well as **integrity of scholarship** must be in accordance with the regulations in the Undergraduate Bulletin.  

- Neither cell phones nor laptop computers may be used during the class.

**Evacuation Guidelines:**

In case of a longer-term evacuation, please, follow the instructions laid out on Loyola’s ‘Emergency and Safety Preparedness’ Web page and under the corresponding links ([http://www.loyno.edu/emergency/index.html](http://www.loyno.edu/emergency/index.html)):

- Log on to university Web site within 48 hours.
- Log on to the course through Blackboard within 48 hours.
- Log on to the university Blackboard site ([http://loyno.blackboard.com/](http://loyno.blackboard.com/)) within 48 hours of any evacuation to receive further information regarding contacting the course instructor for assignments, etc. Students will be required to do assigned course work for any evacuation of more than 48 hours. Students should also monitor the university site ([www.loyno.edu](http://www.loyno.edu)) for general information.
Class Topics:

August
26  presentation of the course and the course material
28  explanation of the syllabus

September
2   1.1 Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions
4   1.2 Recognizing Arguments
9   1.3 Deduction and Induction
11  analysis and explanation of supplementary exercises
16  1.4 Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency
18  1.5 Argument Forms: Proving Invalidity
23  1.6 Extended Arguments & review for the first exam
25  first exam
30  3.1 Fallacies in General & 3.2 Fallacies of Relevance

October
2   3.3 Fallacies of Weak Induction
7   3.4 Fallacies of Presumption, Ambiguity, and Grammatical Anal-
19   ogy & 3.5 Fallacies in Ordinary Language
9   4.1 The Components of Categorical Propositions & 4.2 Quality, 
    Quantity, and Distribution
16  4.3 Venn Diagrams and the Modern Square of Opposition & 4.4 
    Conversion, Obversion, and Contraposition
21  4.5 The Traditional Square of Opposition & 4.6 Venn Diagrams 
    and the Traditional Standpoint & review for the second exam
23  second exam
28  4.7 Translating Ordinary Language Statements into Categorical
    Form
30  5.1 Standard Form, Mode, and Figure & 5.2 Venn Diagrams

November
4   5.3 Rules and Fallacies & 5.4 Reducing the Number of Terms
6   5.5 Ordinary Language Arguments & 5.6 Enthymemes 
11  5.7 Sorites & review for the third exam
13  third exam
18  6.1 Symbols and Translation & 6.2 Truth Functions
20  6.3 Truth Tables for Propositions & 6.4 Truth Tables for Argu-
    ments
25  6.5 Indirect Truth Tables & 6.6 Argument Forms and Fallacies

December
2   7.1 Rules of Implication I & 7.2 Rules of Implication II
4   7.3 Rules of Replacement I & 7.4 Rules of Replacement II
With the intention to leave a certain room for flexibility with regard to the classroom discussions and to allow for the incorporation of supplementary sources from the internet, the fixed sequence of topics determined in the syllabus might undergo slight modifications. Additional assignments will be posted on Blackboard in a timely fashion and have to be fulfilled with diligence.

*This syllabus is subject to change.*