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PHIL 253 Logic Syllabus

Robert Robinson
CUNY City College

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PHI 253 – Logic

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
TUES/THURS 2:00 – 3:15 IN NAC 6/268
<http://portal.cuny.edu>

Instructor:

Robert C. Robinson
Office Hours: Tue/Thur 1-2, (by appt) Mailbox: NAC 5/144C
Office: NAC 5/144C (212) 650-7291
robert.robinson@sps.cuny.edu *additional office hours are available by appointment*

Course Description:

Topics in logic include: problem solving: the difference between arguments and explanations: the difference between induction and deduction: truth and meaning: definition: procedures for the evaluation of various kinds of arguments: truth-tables: the rules of inference for the propositional calculus: and introduction to quantification theory. It focuses both on rules for producing formal proofs, and for translating natural language arguments into logical notation.

Course Objectives:

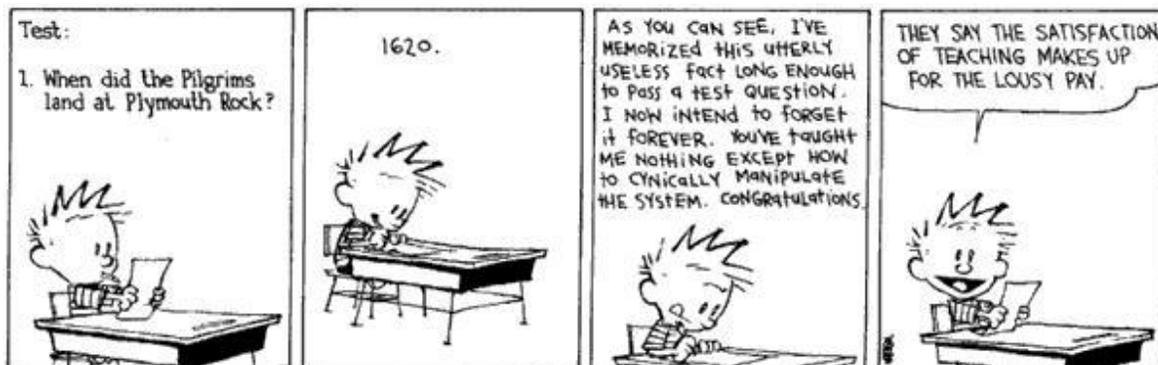
1. Students will become acquainted with techniques of reasoning, including deduction and induction.
2. Students will develop the means to analyze and critically evaluate arguments, both in the classroom and as they appear in everyday contexts.
3. Students will (further) develop the ability to construct valid arguments and strong arguments.

Texts:

The Logic Book 5th Edition, by Marie Bergmann, et al (McGraw Hill, 2010)

A Rulebook for Arguments, by Anthony Weston (Hackett, 2000)

Additional class notes are required reading, and are available at the course website:



Classroom Etiquette :

Please arrive to class on time, and avoid leaving early. Arriving late or leaving early counts as an absence. If you must leave early, please notify the instructor, and sit near the rear of the classroom.

Please silence pagers, cell phones, and any electronic devices. Laptop computers and mobile phones are prohibited in class, and must remain stored in your bag during class. Ask questions when you do not understand – if you have a question, others do too. Do them a favor by expressing it. Extend the same courteous and respectful attitude toward your classmates and instructor that you expect for yourself.

Evaluation:

Exams	60 %
Homework	20%
Participation	20%

There are four exams, daily homework assignments, and a participation grade. The exams evaluate your mastery of the material covered in the lessons. Homeworks will be assigned daily, and will be evaluated pass/fail. The lowest scoring homeworks beyond 20 will be dropped. Participation will be gauged by attendance, daily problem sets, and unannounced quizzes.

Late work will not be accepted. All homework must be turned in *in class*, on the day that it is due in order to receive a grade.



Course Schedule:

We will try to cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 (skipping truth trees and metatheory). However, the interests of the class as well as our particular schedule may dictate that we cover either more or less. The schedule below will take us into the second exam.

8/30 Intro/Syllabus	10/4 Exam 1
9/1 Weston, Ch 1, Ch 6	10/6 LB 5.1
9/6 Weston, Ch 2, 3, 5	10/11 LB 5.2
9/8 Weston, Appendix I (Fallacies)	10/13 LB 5.3
9/8 Weston, Fallacies	10/18 LB 5.4
9/13 Logic Book (LB) Ch 1	10/20 Exam 2
9/15 LB 2.1-2.2	*10/25-12/8 LB Chs 7, 8, 10
9/20 LB 2.3 2.4	11/24 No classes scheduled
9/22 LB 3.1-3.4	
9/27 LB 3.5 3.6	
9/29 No Class (Optional Exam Review Discussion on BlackBoard)	12/13 Review
	12/15-22 Final Exams

Attendance:

You are expected to attend all class meetings. Due to the nature of the class, the text, the material, and class discussions, missing class is detrimental to the learning process, and therefore to your grade. Attendance will be recorded in every meeting, and participation will be gauged through in-class problem sets and unannounced quizzes.

Grading Scale:

The 12 point grading scale corresponds to the college approved 4.0 scale:

96-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	60-69	D
90-95	A-	84-86	B	74-76	C	0-59	F
		80-83	B-	70-73	C-		

Standards of Conduct:

Academic integrity is an essential part of the pursuit of truth, and of your education. We are all responsible for maintaining academic integrity at City College – it is the rock on which the value of your degree is built.

If you cheat on a test or plagiarize by using someone else's work or ideas, you defeat the purpose of your education. In addition, academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York, and is punishable by failing grades, suspension and expulsion. The policy is available at:

<http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/current/upload/academicintegrity.pdf>

Plagiarism will not be tolerated to any degree. If you have any uncertainty about what constitutes Academic Dishonesty, please see the instructor. Any instance of Academic Dishonesty will result in a failing grade in this course, and may also result in action taken by the Student Judicial Board. I find that students consider cheating as a last resource. Instead, consider talking to me as a last resource. There is no excuse for cheating.

Web and Email Resources:

This course will use the Blackboard web resource. Blackboard allows students to check grades, submit assignments, and print readings, and check for announcements. Students are expected also to periodically check their email accounts for important updates. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard or email you are required to become familiar with both.

