2018

PHIL 201 - Logical Reasoning

Robert Robinson
CUNY City College

PHI 201 -- Logical Reasoning
TR 11:00am – 12:15pm NAC 4/161
TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm NAC 4/209
http://portal.cuny.edu

Instructor: Robert C Robinson, PhD Office Hours: Before and After Class
Mailbox: NAC 5/144 Office: NAC 5/203D rrobinson@ccny.cuny.edu

Course Description: This course provides students with an introduction to the elements of logical reasoning. Basic rules and methods of assessing validity and proving arguments as they occur in natural language are introduced (such as truth tables and rules of inference). The goal of the course is to enable students to translate and evaluate arguments in natural language using the basic tools of modern logic. The focus of this course enables it to serve as an excellent form of preparation for SATs, LSAT's and other standardized tests, as well as an analytic resource for further academic studies.

Course Goals: Oral & Communication Skills: Students will have had multiple experiences in communicating ideas in writing and speaking.
Critical Analysis: Students will have had experiences that emphasize analytic and philosophical reasoning to critically examine fundamental questions of epistemology, religion, and ethics.
Information Literacy: Students will have had multiple experiences in finding information in the library, on the Internet, and in other places, and in evaluating the reliability of this information.

Prerequisites: You must have in your possession a copy of the textbook on the first day. You must confirm that Blackboard sends email to your correct email address. By continuing with the course, you agree to these two terms.

Texts: *Logic* (2nd or 3rd edition), by Stan Baronett
https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199846313/student/
Additional class notes are required reading, and are available at the course website.

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 noted in every meeting, and participation will be gauged through in-class problem sets, and homework submission.

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. Any student seen looking at a device with a screen will forfeit the entire course participation points. 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 instructors that you expect for yourself.

Evaluation: Exam 1 25% Exam 2 25% Exam 3 25%
Homework & Participation 25%

There are three exams, daily homework assignments, and a participation grade. The exams allow the instructor to evaluate your mastery of the material covered in the lessons. Homeworks will be assigned daily, will be evaluated pass/fail, and will not be returned. Homework assignments allow the student to check his/her own learning as we move through the course materials.
Since a student cannot simultaneously operate an electronic device and participate in class, full participation points will be deducted from a student's final grade whenever the instructor notices that student looking at a device with a screen.

Late work will not be accepted. All assignments must be turned in in class or before class begins, on or before the day that it is due in order to receive a grade. If you anticipate missing class, please complete and submit your assignments early.

Course Schedule: The following schedule is an outline, and is subject to change due to the interest and pace of the class. Deviations from the schedule will be announced in class. We'll work through the chapters in the following order.

- Exam 1 will cover topics from Chapters 1, 5, and 6.
- Exam 2 will cover topics from Chapter 7.
- Exam 3 will cover topics from the remainder of the class.

Basic Concepts **We will talk about Chapter 1.a – 1.g – please read it before class.**

Categorical Propositions **We will talk about Chapter 5.a – 5.i -- please read it before class**

Categorical Syllogisms	**We will talk about Chapter 6.a – 6.f – please read it before class**
Propositional Logic	**We will talk about Chapter 7.a – 7.h – please read it before class**
Natural Deduction	**We will talk about Chapter 8.a – 8.g – please read it before class**
Predicate Logic	**We will talk about Chapter 9.a – 9.g – please read it before class**

The daily schedule is left imprecise, since student interest and understanding will dictate our pace. Exact readings will be announced in class for the following meeting, and will be posted to the course website. Exams will be announced 2 class meetings in advance. It is likely that we will not complete all the material in Chapter 9 in the course. Students who have an interest in Predicate Logic should enroll directly in PHI 202.

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:
https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/about/integrity

Plagiarism will not be tolerated to any degree. If you have any uncertainty about what constitutes Academic Dishonesty, please see the instructor, or ask a question during class. 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. BB 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.

Notice: The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to the syllabus. Changes will be announced in class, and published to the course page on Blackboard.