PHL 312: Introduction to Logic
Texas Common Number: PHIL 2303

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Bryan Register, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None.

How This Course Works:
This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview:

In this course students learn to recognize arguments and evaluate them. Three different types of logic are examined: categorical syllogistic logic, propositional logic, and predicate logic. Students will come away being able to form better arguments and to recognize good or bad arguments.

Whether or not you are conscious of it, arguments play an important part in your life. For instance, someone is always offering you an argument to persuade you that you ought to believe or act in a certain way. Arguments can concern such diverse activities as child-rearing, politics, grocery shopping, breaking a horse to ride, putting in a fence, designing the electrical circuitry for a new house, determining whether a Supreme Court decision was sound, or figuring your taxes. So, whether you are a homemaker, a doctor, a lawyer, a nuclear physicist, a minister, or a citizen trying to cast an intelligent vote, the ability to construct or identify good arguments can affect the way you think and act. It is also helpful to know when you are faced with a poor argument. By evaluating arguments, you can avoid dangerously constructed houses, unwise laws, and fractious horses.

Required Materials:

Required Text: Hurley, Patrick J. *A Concise Introduction to Logic, 11th ed.* Boston, MA: Wadsworth, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0-8400-3417-5; ISBN-10: 0-8400-3417-2.

Course Organization:

This course contains seven lessons organized in two modules. Each lesson consists of a reading assignment, instructor's comments, and practice exercises from the textbook. Five of the lessons contain assignments to be completed and submitted to the instructor for grading.

In the first lesson, we begin by examining the elements of an argument and identifying them in written passages. Since this is a first course in logic, many of its lessons are spent examining three different systems of deductive logic. The first system is called the categorical syllogistic logic, which we study in lessons 2 and 3. In lessons 4 and 5, we study the propositional logic and natural deduction. Lesson 6 is devoted to the last deductive system, predicate logic. We also look at less formal ways of determining whether or not an argument is bad. So, in lesson 7, we examine some informal fallacies that one commonly finds in everything from newspapers to conversations with friends.

Exams

This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm covers module 1 and the final covers both modules.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline:

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Lesson 1: Basic Concepts	
	Lesson 2: Categorical Propositions	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 1
	Lesson 3: Categorical Syllogisms	
	Lesson 4: Propositional Logic	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 2
MIDTERM EXAM		
2	Lesson 5: Natural Deduction	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 3
	Lesson 6: Predicate Logic	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 4
	Lesson 7: Informal Fallacies	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 5
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation:

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

5 Instructor-Graded Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A	100-93%	B+ 89-87%	C+ 79-77%	D+ 69-67%	F 59-0%
A-	92-90%	B 86-83%	C 76-73%	D 66-63%	
		B- 82-80%	C- 72-70%	D- 62-60%	

Getting Help
- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

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