

INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC: PHIL 2001A

Carleton University, Philosophy Department
Fall 2015
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:35-3:55 PM
University Centre 231

Elisabeta Sarca
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Teaching Assistants: TBD

Description: This course aims to promote reasoning skills, especially the ability to distinguish valid and invalid reasoning. We will study syllogistic logic, propositional logic, and basic quantificational logic. We'll use these to analyze hundreds of arguments, many on philosophical topics like morality, the existence of God, free will, and scientific method. Special emphasis will be placed on practice, both in and outside the classroom.

Objectives: In this course students will develop and strengthen skills to identify, evaluate and construct arguments; cultivate a critical thinking practice through the study of varied examples; and understand argument as a dialogical process necessary for private and public decision making. More specifically, the aims of this course are to:

- Define what an argument is and distinguish it from non-argument
- Differentiate between valid and invalid arguments
- Investigate the relationship between truth and validity
- Identify formal/structural features of valid argumentation
- Recognize the more common fallacies to be avoided in reasoning
- Construct arguments consistent with best practices in a discipline, with special application in philosophy; apply logical reasoning to controversies in ethics, politics, science and others
- Formulate constructive responses to criticism
- Understand the function of logic in the context of theories of/issues about meaning, knowledge, values and/or reality

Required Material

1. Harry J. Gensler, *Introduction to Logic*, 2nd edition
2. LogiCola program – available free, at <http://www.harryhiker.com/lc/>
3. Various supplementary materials that will be handed out in class or posted on cuLearn

Course requirements

There will be homework almost every week.

Three tests, corresponding to the major sections covered in the course (syllogistic, propositional, and quantificational)

Final exam, cumulative.

It is important to keep up with the class material, because the lessons build on each other. Coming to each class, paying attention and asking questions are crucial components for success in the course.

Course sections

1. Foundational concepts of logic
2. Syllogistic logic
3. Propositional logic
4. Basic quantificational logic

E-Mail & cuLearn

It is your responsibility to check your Carleton e-mail and cuLearn regularly. Important course documents, as well as the most current class schedule and homework assignments, will be posted on cuLearn, which will be up to date until at least the next exam. I can best be reached by email, but please note that I am not permanently “on-call”. I will do my very best to answer all messages in a timely manner, but it’s best not to leave important or emergency messages until the last minute, because they might not reach me on time. Also note that questions about the material covered in class or problem sets in the book are best addressed during my office hours – please take advantage of those.

Protocol

1. **Read and abide by the University and Departmental Policies outlined at the end of this document.**

2. **Preparation** – Do the reading and all other assignments before class. I recommend that you first skim the text to get a general idea of the content, then read slowly and carefully, outlining major points and noting your questions.
3. **Respect** – Please always be respectful and civilized toward other students and me. This includes, for example, not interrupting when others are talking, maintaining order and silence so others can make the best of their learning experience and, obviously, not displaying any sort of bigoted or discriminatory views. If I feel you are being disruptive, I will ask you to leave the classroom.
4. **Cell Phones & Laptops** – Phones must be turned off or silenced during class. Computers may be used only for taking notes, though I do encourage pen-and-paper note-taking instead. Please try to abstain from constantly browsing the web, checking for messages or, even worse, sending messages during class. It is disruptive to me and the other students, and it is against your own best interests. Plus: every 30 minutes I will assign a short (1-2 minutes) messaging break, so please hold on until the next break!
5. **Plagiarism and cheating** are very serious offenses and are unacceptable. I expect all assignments to be completed independently by each student, except when explicitly noted by me otherwise (as in joint projects). Any work you submit and represent as your own must actually be your own. If I believe you have cheated, I will immediately send an incident report to the Dean's Office, which will determine further action, in accordance with University Policies.

Grades

Any work submitted late will receive a grade reduction. Exceptions will be granted only if I receive the request for late submittal with a valid and properly documented reason (such as a doctor's note indicating injury or illness) no later than the due date. Special arrangements for make-up tests must be made in advance and with proper documentation. Personal reasons will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor.

Explanation of Graded Assignments:

The homework will be done through the LogiCola program. You must send me the scores through cuLearn (NOT email) before each deadline. Each problem set (at any level) counts toward a point for your homework grade. Late assignments (at any level) are penalized by half. For tests: try to do the exercises at an average level of 6 (levels go from 1 to 9). Your exercise scores add a bonus or penalty to your following test score. Let's say your average level is N. You get a +1 bonus for each number N is above 6; so you get a +3 bonus if N=9. You get a -1 penalty for each number N is below 6; so you get a -2 penalty if N=4. If you try to fake scores, this will count as cheating (see statement above about cheating and its repercussions).

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Homework:	13 % – late assignments penalized
Tests:	57 % (3x19) – no make-ups, unless with prior notice and documented excuse
Final Exam:	30 % – cumulative

Schedule will be posted and regularly updated on cuLearn.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall 2015)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulations/oftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health

disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735