

## INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC: PHIL 2001A

Carleton University, Philosophy Department  
Fall 2017  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05-5:25 PM  
Azrieli Theatre 101

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, proofs and fallacies. 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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
2. LogiCola program – available free, at <http://www.harryhiker.com/lc/>
3. Various supplementary materials that will be posted on cuLearn

### Course requirements

There will be homework due almost every week (9 assignments in total).

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

Final exam, cumulative.

It is extremely 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. Propositional proofs and refutations
5. 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, are 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.
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 **50% 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, up to a total of 49 for the semester. Late assignments (at any level) are penalized by 50%. If you try to fake your scores, my program will show it to me automatically and this will count as cheating (see statement above about cheating and its repercussions).

**How Logicola scores count toward test grades:** Before each test, I calculate the average score (level) at which you did all the assigned exercises having to do with the material on the test. The default level for this course is 6 (the maximum level is 9). Your exercise scores average, if above 6, adds a bonus to the next test grade. So: if your average level is, say, 8, then you get a +2 bonus on the following test. You will have a special place to submit missed/improved sets before each test.

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Homework:	18 % – late assignments will be penalized
Tests:	54 % (3x18%) – no make-ups, unless with prior notice and documented excuse
Final Exam:	28 % – cumulative

Schedule is posted and regularly updated on cuLearn.

### **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 Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within **3 working days** after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within **3 working days** after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **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](mailto: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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for Fall term and Fall/Winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a Fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the Winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from Winter term courses or from the Winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735