Syllabus for Philosophy 2303: Introduction to Formal Logic
Brookhaven College
Social Science
Spring 2015

Course Description:
PHIL2303: Logic. Section 23401 and 93403 (Internet course)
Prerequisite: None.
The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to symbolic logic, including
syllogisms, propositional and predicate logic, and logical proofs in a system of rules. (3
Lec.) Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 38.0101.52 12

Instructor:
Dr. Jerrod Scott
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(Office Phone) 972.860.4826
(email) jscott@dcccd.edu

Required Materials:
All materials necessary for this course can be purchased online. Go into ecampus
and click the APLIA tab on the left. When you click the APLIA link, you will be
taken to the cengage website where our class will take place. APLIA will ask you
to create a login user name and password, and you will then be asked to
purchase the access code for the course.

The access card could also come with a new hard copy of the textbook.
However, the access card provides access to an ecopy of the text. Therefore, I
would encourage you to NOT buy the hardcopy of the text, but just the access
card. This is all you need to have full access the course, and the etext of your
book.

If you want to purchase the hardcopy of the text (with the access card), this is
the information you need:

Course Objectives & Goals:
This is an introductory course in logic. The superficial goal is to learn how to
properly evaluate arguments. Students will learn how to spot basic fallacies, and how
to avoid these fallacies in their own work. Students will also learn how to use a variety
of tools (Venn diagrams, truth tables and formal proofs) to dissect and analyze
arguments.

The deeper and more fundamental goal is to learn how to think. Regardless of one’s occupation, being able to analyze evidence and come to a reasoned conclusion is of paramount importance. This course in logic, more than any other class one can take, will train one to do just that.

PHIL2303-Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of PHIL2303, students should be able to demonstrate competence in Logic by:

1. Determine the logical structure of English arguments by identifying premises and conclusions.
2. Understand basic concepts in logic, such as truth functionality, validity, soundness, counter-examples, tautology, self-contradiction, logical equivalence, logical contradictoriness, and logical consistence.
3. Translate English statements into propositional and/or predicate notation.
4. Determine the validity of symbolic propositional or predicate arguments using such methods as direct/indirect truth tables, natural deduction, and/or the finite universe method.

Course Requirements:

You are expected to read and do homework every day. **To be successful in this class, you must do the homework and log into class each day.** I believe that the best way to learn logic is by doing the exercises. You should read a section of the text, then do the exercises for that section. At the end of each chapter is a chapter test that covers the material in that chapter. Your grade will be the total of the 6 chapter exams.

However, I will give bonus points for completing certain practice exercises. Each chapter has at least one homework assignment that is graded. I will give bonus points to each chapter exam based on a percentage of your score for the graded practice exercises from that chapter that you have completed, one point per 10% of the score. For example, in chapter one, section 1.4 has a homework assignment that is graded. If your score is 80% of the total possible, then I will give you an 8 point bonus to your chapter one exam. If your score is 21% of the total for those exercises, then I will add 2 bonus points to your chapter one exam. So, the maximum amount of bonus points for EACH graded homework assignment is 10 (for scoring 95% or higher of the graded homework exercises in that section).

You could get up to 70 bonus points in total for the semester. Your final semester grade will be calculated from your chapter exams and your bonus points.
Grading:

There are 300 points possible on the chapter exams (6 exams, 50 points each). The final grade will be based on a 300 point scale. However, there are 7 “bonus” assignments, each worth a maximum of 10 points. So, you could actually earn as much as 370 points. **I do not curve grades, so every point matters:**

- 270-300 = A
- 240-269 = B
- 210-239 = C
- 180-209 = D
- 179 and below = F

Attendance Policy:

I do not count attendance as part of your grade.

Absence due to Religious Holy Days:

Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

ADA Statement:

If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.

Withdrawal Policy:

If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by the withdraw date. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Financial Aid Recipients:

Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the financial aid office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position or repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

Third Attempt:

Effective for the Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged.
Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1112/ss/oep/dw.cfm

Academic Dishonesty
Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Dallas County Community Colleges Catalog, https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic dishonesty:
1. Copying the work of another student during an examination.
2. Copying from the textbook during an examination.
3. Informing a person of the contents of an examination prior to the time the examination is given.
4. Failing to credit sources used in a work or product in an attempt to pass off the work as one’s own.
5. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources, including the internet.
6. Attempting to receive credit in one or more classes for the same paper or project without written approval of instructors involved.
7. Agreeing with one or more persons to commit an act of scholastic dishonesty.
8. Taking an examination for another person or allowing someone to take an examination for you.
9. Signing an attendance sheet for another student or committing similar acts of impersonation.

Cheating of any kind will result in a “0” for that assignment. A second infraction will result in the grade of “F” for the semester and a report sent, by the instructor, to the
proper college officials.

**Make-Up Quizzes & Exams:**
Generally, I do not give make-up exams. However, if you miss an exam, you must notify me **within one day of the exam date**. If you fail to notify me in time, you will not be able to make-up the test.

The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course or syllabus.

**Schedule of Readings:** Below are the deadlines for each set of practice exercises and each chapter test. Each assignment, and deadline, is listed in your Aplia course online. Please keep up with the assignments. If you want to move through the material faster than assigned, you may. Everything is open from the beginning of the course. But if you go by the deadlines, you will move through the material at a steady pace. Since the material is available 24/7, I will not give make-up exams. If you know you are planning a trip, work ahead in the material. Poor planning on your part does not mean an emergency on my part.

Again, the deadlines are firm. **You will receive NO credit for graded practice exercises (the “bonus” exercises) or exams that are past the deadline.** The deadline for all exams and graded exercises is 11pm on the date listed below. So for example, the first graded practice exercises (bonus grade) is section 1.4. This assignment must be finished by 11pm on 1/28 to receive credit. The first test, over Chapter One, is due before 11pm on 2/3. All section numbers refer to our text, *A Concise Introduction to Logic 11th edition*.

**Critical Thinking**

**Chapter One: Basic Concepts**

1/23  Sections 1.1 and 1.2  
1/25  Section 1.3  
**1/28**  **Section 1.4** (Bonus Exercises)  
1/30  Section 1.5  
**2/3**  **Chapter One Test**

**Chapter Three: Fallacies**

2/4  Section 3.1  
2/6  Section 3.2  
2/11  Section 3.3  
**2/13**  **Section 3.4** (Bonus Exercises)  
2/18  Section 3.5  
**2/19**  **Chapter Three Test**
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Students will be able to retrieve their grades on-line through the Internet on DCCCD eConnect web-site at [http://econnect.dcccd.edu](http://econnect.dcccd.edu). Students who do not have Internet access at home or work may also access their grades by using drop-in computer labs at various college locations. Students must select the Student Menu, click on My Personal
Info. And scroll down to My grades. Students may request official academic transcripts free of charge at the Admissions Office. Student advising reports (an unofficial document, which includes a history of their DCCCD coursework, grades, GPA, and academic standing) are also available from both the Academic Advising Office and the Admissions Office.