

Philosophy 1200.AXX/YY–Critical Thinking

First and Second Semesters 2016-2017
CRN: 10362 and 20354
Monday and Wednesday, 8.30 am to 9.45 am
Burke Building Theatre A

Instructor: Mark Mercer
Office: McNally North Room 524
Phone: 420-5825 (office) and 422-5789 (home)
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10.00 am to 1 pm, or by appointment

Our goal in this course is to acquire proficiency in analysing and evaluating arguments.

Texts:

Patrick J. Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic* Twelfth Edition (Cengage Learning, 2015)

Evaluation:

First term: Students will be evaluated on three tests worth 10 points each and a Christmas exam worth 20 points.

Second term: Students will be evaluated on five tests worth 5 points each and a final exam worth 25 points.

Policy regarding missed tests or exams:

1. Students who miss a test will receive zero for that test unless they write a make-up test. Students are eligible to write a make-up test only if they were justifiably absent from class the day of the test. (One is justifiably absent from class only if one is ill or dealing with a family emergency or other serious situation.) The instructor is the final judge whether one may write a make-up test.
2. Make-up tests must be written within five days of the scheduled test.
3. Students who miss an exam will receive zero for that exam unless they are eligible to write a make-up exam. The instructor is the final judge whether one may write a make-up exam.

Numbers and letters:

At the end of the year, after the final exam, the numerical scores you earned on your tests and exams will be summed and you will receive a letter grade for the course as follows:

90 and over:	A+		77-79.99:	B+	
85-89.99:	A	excellent	73-76.99:	B	good
80-84.99:	A-		70-72.99:	B-	
67-69.99:	C+				
63-66.99:	C	satisfactory	50-59.99:	D	marginal pass
60-62.99:	C-				
under 50:	F	failure			

Schedule:

First Semester

Wednesday 7 September to Wednesday 21 September

Chapter 1, Basic Concepts: 1.1 “Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions” and 1.2 “Recognizing Arguments”

Test: Wednesday 21 September, scored out of 10

Monday 26 September to Monday 17 October

Chapter 4, Categorical Propositions

Test: Monday 17 October, scored out of 10

Wednesday 19 October to Monday 7 November

Chapter 5, Categorical Syllogisms

Test: Monday 7 November, scored out of 10

Monday 14 November to Wednesday 23 November

Chapter 6, Propositional Logic

Monday 28 November and Wednesday 30 November

Exam preparation

–Christmas Examination: three hours during the scheduled exam period, covering the entire first semester, scored out of 20–

Second Semester

Wednesday 4 January to Monday 23 January

Chapter 7, Natural Deduction in Propositional Logic

Test: Monday 23 January, scored out of 5

Monday 30 January to Monday 6 February

Chapter 1, Basic Concepts: 1.3 “Deduction and Induction”

Test: Monday 6 February, scored out of 5

Wednesday 8 February to Wednesday 15 February

Chapter 1, Basic Concepts: 1.4 “Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency”

Test: Wednesday 15 February, scored out of 5

Monday 27 February to Monday 6 March

Chapter 1, Basic Concepts: 1.6 “Extended Arguments” (I)

Test: Monday 6 March, scored out of 5

Wednesday 8 March to Monday 20 March

Chapter 1, Basic Concepts: 1.6 “Extended Arguments” (II)

Test: Monday 20 March, scored out of 5

Wednesday 22 March to Wednesday 29 March

Exam preparation

–Final exam: three hours during the scheduled exam period, covering the entire course, scored out of 25–