

Philosophy 2303.01E—Logic            Fall 2014

Dr. Bill Bolin

Office & Hours: HL 324, MW 3:30p—5:00p, T 3:00p—5:00p, and by appt.

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will allow you many opportunities to study and practice informal logic. We will examine different ways to evaluate arguments, including historical arguments, fictitious arguments, and even contemporary arguments in the news. And we will practice both categorical logic (ex., “All Spartans are brave persons...”) and truth-functional logic (ex., “It is not the case that both: Crimea is part of Ukraine and Crimea is part of Russia...”) The primary take-away of the course is that you will be able to judge strong arguments, your own and others’, based on reasoning.

One textbook is required:

Herrick, Paul. *Introduction to Logic*. New York: Oxford UP, 2013. ISBN: 9780199890491

Here’s a helpful website by Herrick: <http://www.manyworldsoflogic.com>

Prerequisite: Eng1302

Satisfies 3 hours of University Studies Social and Behavioral Sciences, as well as 3 credit hours towards the minor in Philosophy and the minor in Interdisciplinary Studies.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will identify different types of arguments.
2. Students will successfully test an argument for validity.
3. Students will analyze categorical arguments.
4. Students will analyze truth-functional arguments.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To examine and evaluate arguments with regard to internal validity.
2. To demonstrate proficiency in explaining how parts of arguments relate to each other to prove validity.

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams:** You will take four exams, each covering roughly a quarter of the semester. The questions on each exam will look much like the questions in the textbook’s exercises, with spaces provided on the test sheet for your written answers.

**Quizzes:** You will take eight quizzes to test your comprehension of some of the reading. These timed, open-book quizzes will be in eCollege and cannot easily be made up. Be attentive to their deadlines.

**Homework:** You will have plenty of homework from the exercises in the textbook, but that homework will not be graded. We will regularly review the homework exercises in class, and you are expected to keep up with it to prepare for the exams and to complete the student learning outcomes.

## EVALUATION

Assignment Values	Final Grade Ranges
<b>Exams</b> (4 @ 30 pts. each) 120 pts. <b>Quizzes</b> (8 @ 10 pts. each) 80 pts.	A=180--200 B=160--179 C=140--159 D=120--139 F=0--119

## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is important for several reasons, but it is especially important for you to keep up with the assignments in this class. The tentative calendar below offers only the most general description of activities; more detail will be provided in class as the semester goes on. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must contact me and make satisfactory arrangements for turning in the assignment. Failure to make prior satisfactory arrangements will result in your forfeiting the right to turn in that assignment. As per university policy, excessive absences (three weeks' worth) will result in your being dropped from the course.

## PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Academic dishonesty on one assignment in this course will most likely lead to a failing grade for the course.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR (All reading assignments are from the textbook unless otherwise indicated.)

Aug. 25 Introduction to course

Aug. 27 Chapter 1: definitions of logic

Aug. 29 Chapter 2: argumentation

Sept. 1 Labor Day Holiday

Sept. 3 Chapter 3: inductive and deductive arguments: Quiz 1

Sept. 5 Chapter 3, cont.

Sept. 8 Chapter 4: evaluating deductive arguments; Quiz 2

Sept. 10 Chapter 4, cont.

Sept. 12 Chapter 5: evaluating inductive arguments

Sept. 15 Chapter 6: logical relations

Sept. 17 Chapter 6, cont.

Sept. 19 Exam 1

Sept. 22 [Online meeting] Chapter 7: categorical logic form; Quiz 3

Sept. 24 [Online meeting] Chapter 7, cont.

Sept. 26 [Online meeting] Chapter 7, cont.

Sept. 29 Chapter 8: syllogism; Quiz 4

Oct. 1 Chapter 8, cont.

Oct. 3 Chapter 8, cont.

Oct. 6 Chapter 9: Boole and Venn

Oct. 8 Chapter 9, cont.

Oct. 10 Exam 2

Oct. 13 Chapter 10: truth-functional logic

Oct. 15 Chapter 11: truth-functional logic and form

Oct. 17 Chapter 12: truth-functional language beginnings

Oct. 20 [Online meeting] Chapter 13: English to TL; Quiz 5

Oct. 22 [Online meeting] Chapter 13, cont.

Oct. 24 Chapter 13, cont. and skim Chapter 14: truth tables

Oct. 27 Chapter 18: truth-functional rules; Quiz 6

Oct. 29 Chapter 18, cont.

Oct. 31 Chapter 18, cont.

Nov. 3 Chapter 19: truth-functional inference rules

Nov. 5 Chapter 19, cont.

Nov. 7 Exam 3

Nov. 10 Chapter 20: truth-functional replacement rules; Quiz 7

Nov. 12 Chapter 20, cont.

Nov. 14 Chapter 20, cont.

Nov. 17 Chapter 21: indirect and conditional proof

Nov. 19 Chapter 21, cont.

Nov. 21 Chapter 22: premise-free proofs; Quiz 8

Nov. 24 Chapter 22, cont.

Nov. 26 Chapter 22, cont.

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 1 Appendix A: Classical Indian logic

Dec. 3 Appendix A, cont.; review

Dec. 5 [Online meeting] review

**Dec. 10 @ 8:00a—10:00a Final Exam**

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In other words, don't be a distraction during class.