

Spring 2014
Philosophy 1250
Practical Logic

Instructor: Gordon Steinhoff

Time: 1:00 - 1:50 MWF

Room: Main 203

Text: A Concise Introduction to Logic, Patrick Hurley, Eleventh Edition

Individual chapters are available at www.cengagebrain.com

ISBN 978-0-8400-3417-5

Objectives: This course will be an introduction to modern logic, with an emphasis on practical applications in everyday and professional life. Topics we discuss will include arguments, validity, soundness, informal fallacies, categorical syllogisms, and propositional logic. The goal of the course is to learn to think and communicate in a more logical fashion.

Requirements: There will be four exams during the semester. You must take the exams when they are offered on the dates below. There are no automatic make-up exams. Exam questions will involve problem solving. Each exam will be worth 100 points, including the final exam, which will not be comprehensive. Homework will be due at the beginning of each class. Your homework assignments will be quickly checked for completeness and quality. A check \checkmark will be entered by your name for each completed assignment of adequate quality that is turned in on time. You must at least make a good effort to solve each problem.

Your final grade will be determined by the average of your four exam scores according to the following scale.

92-100% A	82-87.9% B	72-77.9% C	60-67.9% D
90-91.9% A-	80-81.9% B-	70-71.9% C-	below 60% F
88-89.9% B+	78-79.9% C+	68-69.9% D+	

For those who have turned in the homework assignments regularly and on time, making a good effort to solve each problem, the boundary line for each grade will be pulled down 2 percentage points. Those who have a 90% average score will receive an A, those who have an 88% will receive an A-, those with an 86% will receive a B+, etc. To be placed in the curve, you can miss turning in on time only 5 or fewer homework assignments of adequate quality. That is, you must have a check \checkmark recorded for each assignment, with only five or fewer missing checks throughout the semester.

A good homework record won't work miracles. But if you are close to the boundary line for the next higher grade, a good homework record will bring you up to the higher grade.

Exam dates:

Topics covered (tentative):

Exam 1, Wed. Jan. 29

Chapter 1. Recognizing arguments, validity, soundness, argument diagramming

Exam 2, Fri. Feb. 21	Chapters 3 and 4 (4.1, 4.2, 4.4). Informal fallacies, categorical propositions
Exam 3, Fri. March 28	Chapters 4 (4.5, 4.7), and 5. Categorical propositions, categorical syllogisms
Exam 4, Mon. April 28 at 11:30!	Chapter 6. Propositional logic

The exact material covered on each exam may vary somewhat from the above schedule. Two days before each exam the instructor will give the class an outline of what to study for the exam. Students will generally know what will be on each exam by the homework problems done in class in the weeks before the exam.

Those who may need special testing conditions or more time to complete an exam may wish to apply to the Disability Resource Center in order to take the exams there.

Keys to Doing Well in this Class: Attend every class. Do the homework problems before class and come to class with questions. It's always best to try the problems on your own before you see them solved in class. Don't slack off, even after the exams. Much important material is covered the day after an exam. Logic is hard to "cram" for after ignoring it for too long. If you have difficulty understanding some points in the lecture or homework, get help sooner rather than later. Feel free to come in during office hours if you would like extra help.

For All Who Take This Course: Please come to class on time!! The class begins at 1:30. Also, please be courteous to the instructor and other students. Do not sit and chat with your neighbor during class while the instructor is teaching. Such behavior is distracting to the instructor, your neighbor, and yourself. For students who engage in this kind of behavior, the instructor will not give credit for homework assignments, and may (if necessary) deduct points from the tests. Please socialize outside of class.

Instructor's Office: Main 202D

Office Hours: MWF afternoons after 4:00, T, Th after 3:00, or by appointment

Phone: 797-3688 (if I'm not in, leave a message)