

Phil 2020
Prin. Logic & Argumentation

Instructor: Dr. L. Lovern
Email: llovern@valdosta.edu
Office Hours: 11-12 MWF
Office: Ashley Hall 101
Phone: 333-7376

Course Description:

An introduction to the principles of logic and the nature of argumentation. Attention is given to language analysis, fallacies of reasoning, deductive and inductive procedures, subjective factors of reasoning and scientific method. Emphasis is on the practical application of basic principles to the analysis of ethical, political, and legal arguments and theories.

VSU General Education Outcomes:

- #4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening.
- #7. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written, and visual materials.

Philosophy Selected Educational Outcomes:

1. To encourage an understanding of central issues, topics and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. To develop students' abilities to think, write, and speak critically and logically.
3. To enable students to challenge their own ideas and to develop self-understanding in the context of a diverse range of ideas which inform contemporary controversies and social conflict.
4. To enable students to engage in independent philosophical research, and to be responsible for communicating their understanding of the issues researched and developed, including a working familiarity with current research methods.

Course Outcomes:

1. Use more advanced logical and critical reasoning techniques through the examination of various methods of logic from formal and informal traditions.
2. Discuss such topics as: the nature of critical thinking, classification, meaning, and definition; ambiguity and vagueness; categorical logic; explanation and argument; techniques of persuasion; propositional logic; deduction and induction; and pseudo-reasoning (fallacies).
3. Apply these critical reasoning principles to a variety of problems and contexts, including writing and analysis in other courses.
4. Use the truth table method to determine the truth-value of compound sentences and to distinguish among tautologies contingent sentences and contradictions.
5. Distinguish between valid and invalid argument forms, using the truth table method and the proof method.

6. Translate ordinary-language statements and arguments into the language of sentential logic and/or predicate logic, and vice versa.
7. Demonstrate that a given argument in symbolic form is valid or invalid.
8. Incorporate philosophical positions in oral and written communications.
9. Critically outline and analyze a philosophical question.

Special Needs:

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with me at the beginning of the semester. If you are such a student, but are not registered with the Special Services Program, you should contact the Special Services office in Powell Hall. The phone number is 245-2498. The student success center is also available.

Academic Honesty:

Students in this course are held to the highest levels of academic honesty. Plagiarism or otherwise unethical behavior will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult the student handbook, or ask your professor. Violations of policy on academic honesty and integrity will be dealt with as per established University procedure. See for reference,
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

Attendance:

Because of the nature of this course, attendance is required. Students missing more than two classes, without an approved excuse, may be subject to a drop in grade. The professor determines excused and unexcused.

Reading List:

The pace of this course will be determined by the abilities of the students. Assignments will be given in class. The dates of the exams will also be based on the pace of student understanding. These dates will also be given in class at least one week in advance. An initial schedule outline is given below for student reference.

Late Work:

Students must complete all homework on time unless approved by the professor. All quizzes and tests must be taken on time unless approved by the professor. Late work, quizzes and tests must be made up within two weeks of the original date.

Cell Phones:

Because some students have family responsibilities, cell phones will be allowed in class. As the ring of a phone is disruptive, phones should be placed on silent ring. **NO** text messaging will be allowed in class. If you must communicate with someone by phone, you need to leave the classroom.

Evaluations:

This course is part of a pilot project this semester, testing a new online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI) form. Student evaluations are extremely important in helping faculty

members plan and revise their courses. Rather than completing these evaluations during class time, students will need to access evaluation forms via BANNER and complete them.

Text:

A Concise Introduction to Logic 10th edition by Patrick J. Hurley (9th edition may be used)

Grades:

Homework 100 pts.

Quizzes as needed

2 Tests 100 pts. each

4 mini tests 50 pts. each

Final 100 points

Participation 50 pts.

Total points 650

Reading Assignments

Week 1: Introduction/Chapter 1

Week 2: Chapter 1

Week 3: Chapter 2

Test 1

Week 4: Chapter 3

Week 5: Chapter 3

Week 6: Chapter 3

Test 2

Week 7: Chapter 6

Week 8: Chapter 6

Mini Test 1

Week 9: Chapter 7 (7.1)

Week 10: Chapter 7 (7.2)

Mini Test 2

Week 11: Chapter 7 (7.3)

Week 12: Chapter 7 (7.4)

Week 13: Chapter 7 (7.4)

Mini Test 3

Week 14: Chapter 7 (7.5)

Week 15: Chapter 7 (7.6)

Mini Test 4

Week 16: Review

Week 17: Final