

PHL 201: Introduction to Logic
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: MW 1:45-2:45
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www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/philosophy/heikes/201/201.html

Course Texts: Howard Pospesel, *Introduction to Logic: Propositional Logic*, 3rd edition
Online course packet (can be found at the course website listed above)

Course Goals:

- (1) To learn the principles and techniques of correct reasoning and logical thinking. These will include the principles of both informal and formal logic.
- (2) To use these principles and techniques to analyze arguments encountered in everyday life.

Course Grading:

Homework	20%	(assignments given each day in class; <u>NO LATE HOMEWORK ACCEPTED</u>)
First Exam	10%	
Second Exam*	15%	
Third Exam*	25%	
Final Exam*	30%	

*These exams will be cumulative.

(Your grade on the final will be the minimum grade you can earn for the 80% of your grade that is based on exams. That is, do well on the final and you can bring up your exam average.)

Grading Scale

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below; P=70-100

Expectations and Assessment:

Logic concerns the correct rules for reasoning and for critically evaluating arguments. You will be asked not only to know the standard rules of logic but also to demonstrate that you can apply these rules in analyzing arguments. The homework assignments will test your knowledge and mastery of the rules of logic through daily assignments. The exams will build on the material covered in class and in homework assignments. On the exams, you will be required to demonstrate that you understand the basic terminology and language of logic, that you can think clearly and critically, that you can correctly analyze arguments, and that you can accurately use logical language. By the end of the course, you should be able to evaluate both inductive and deductive arguments using the tools of both formal and informal logic. In short, you are expected to master the principles and techniques of good reasoning and critical thinking.

Course Outline: Specific dates for readings and homework exercises will be announced in class.

Weeks 1-2: Basic Concepts: Pospesel Ch. 1; Coursepack Ch. 1-2

Exam (around Sept. 4)

Weeks 3-5: Informal Fallacies, Coursepack Ch. 3

Exam (around Sept. 25)

Week 6-15: Formal Logic

Week 6: Pospesel, Ch. 2 & 3

Week 7: Pospesel, Ch.4

Week 8: Pospesel, Ch.5

Week 9: Pospesel, Ch. 6

Exam (around Oct. 23)

Week 10: Pospesel, Ch. 7

Week 11: Pospesel, Ch. 8

Week 12: Pospesel, Ch. 9

Week 13: Pospesel, Ch. 10

Week 14: Proof and Symbolization Practice

Final Exam (Friday, Dec. 4 from 11:30am-2:00pm)

Miscellaneous Information:

- Logic is a course in which topics build on one another. In other words, taking seriously material in the early part of the course will prepare you for later material. Class attendance is strongly recommended. In all likelihood, your understanding and performance will profit from your presence and suffer from your absence.
- I will assign homework assignments for every non-test day of class. You will be required to complete and submit the homework at the beginning of each class. **I will not accept late homework; I repeat, I will not accept late homework**, but I will drop several homework grades at the end of the course.
- I strongly discourage make-up exams. Excluding extraordinary circumstances, you should make such requests before the day of the exam.
- Academic misconduct (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will result in no credit for the assignment in question and may result in further judicial action.. If you have any question concerning what constitutes academic misconduct, please ask me or consult the UAH Student Handbook.
- No electronic devices may be used during exams. I will confiscate any electronic device (phone, ipod, etc.) that is (or appears to be) in use during an exam.
- Any student who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss class requirements.
- Turn off all beepers, cellular phones, etc. before class.
- I reserve the right to alter any or all of the portions of this syllabus, at my sole discretion, at any time. Any changes will be announced in class.