Course Objectives:

Whether we are consciously aware of it or not, our lives are constantly impacted by the use and/or misuse of logic. It impacts how we come to think or even how we act. Logic is a field of study that teaches the methods and analysis of what counts as reasoning well. The practice of logic will train you to identify and distinguish good from poor reasoning, as well as to identify the common forms of fallacies that lead people astray into forms of irrationality, prejudice, and superstition. In the first part of the class, we will examine logic as it is practiced in everyday, informal language. In the second part of the class, we will discover how the formal, symbolic representation of arguments can assist in evaluating the ways in which we arrive at rational or irrational conclusions. We will also look to the ways that logic, as the study of reasoning well, has far-reaching applications that one can encounter in the social and natural sciences, mathematics, philosophy, law, politics and even in our everyday life.

Text and Resources:


Readings and Homework Assignments:

The readings should be completed prior to the class in which they are assigned. The study of logic entails attaining the skills of reasoning which can only be mastered through practice. To this end, there will be on-line homework assignments through the aplia website that must be completed by the time they are listed as due in the on-line course materials. We will also be performing practice exercises from the text, some of which will be done in class and some which will be assigned as homework.

Grading: The grades will be earned through a combination of class participation, homework, and tests. The breakdown is as follows: 10% for participation, 40% for homework, and 50% for the mid-term and final (25% each).

Attendance and Participation: This class will be treated as a collaborative effort to attain the skills and to overcome the challenges of reasoning well. To that end, it is
crucial that you both attend and are engaged in the class discussion and practice exercises. You will be allowed two absences before it will impact your grade (one grade level A- to B+, etc. for each subsequent absence).

Homework: There will be assigned and graded practice exercises to be completed through the aplia website. The grading will be done automatically on-line by the aplia website at the moment the assignment is due. Just as a reminder, if you are even a second late in submitting the on-line assignment, the website will not accept your completed assignment. I have incorporated two “free pass” assignments if for any reason you cannot finish your homework on time. These are designed to account for possible computer problems, illness, etc. Any missed assignments beyond the two “free passes” will be given a grade of zero, without exception. If you complete all of your assignments, I will drop the two lowest homework assignments. The website will generally allow you three attempts to complete a particular question set. The problems are randomized so that different students will see different problem sets. Please alert me if any problems arise in using the aplia website. I will also be assigning the completion of some of the more challenging practice exercises from the book that we will be performing in class that day.

Tests: There will be two tests, a mid-term and a final. They will cover the chapter sections that we have done in class up to that point or since the mid-term. In other words, they will not be cumulative.

Academic Honesty: This class will follow the policies and procedures of the college regarding academic honesty. While I encourage studying together, the graded homework assignments must be your own work.

Classroom Policies:

- As previously mentioned, this class will be treated as a collaborative effort and, to that end, it is absolutely required that you treat everyone in the class with respect. Any demeaning, dismissive, or insulting behavior toward anyone in the class will be treated very seriously. All are here to learn and the class environment will be one where mistakes will be seen as opportunities, and the ability to ask questions and identify what is challenging about the material will be both fostered and encouraged.
- Cell Phones are prohibited. They must be off and packed away so that they are out of sight. They are distracting to all in the class, and besides, we all know that you don’t like to stare at your lap that much.
- Computers will need to be put away unless stated otherwise.

A Final Note: Learning logic can become progressively more difficult as the course moves along. If there is any point in the course where you feel you may need extra help from me, do not hesitate to ask. I am looking forward to working with all of you and it is my hope that the course can be not only challenging but also fun!
Reading and Exam Schedule for Philosophy 107, Logic and Reasoning
(tentative)

All readings and exercises from Patrick Hurley, A Concise Introduction to Logic, 11th edition, unless otherwise noted.

Week 1:

Tuesday, March 31: Introduction
Thursday, April 2: Section 1.1 and 1.2

Week 2:

Tuesday, April 7: 1.3 and 1.4
Thursday, April 9: 2.1 and 2.2

Week 3:

Tuesday, April 14: 2.3 and 2.4
Thursday, April 16: 3.1 and 3.2

Week 4:

Tuesday, April 21: 3.3 and 3.4
Thursday, April 23: 3.5/ Review

Week 5:

Tuesday, April 28: Exam 1
Thursday, April 30: 6.1 and 6.2

Week 6:

Tuesday, May 5: 6.3 and 6.4
Thursday, May 7: NO CLASS

Week 7:

Tuesday, May 12: 6.5 and 7.1
Thursday, May 14: 7.2

**Week 8:**

Tuesday, May 19: 7.3 and 7.4

Thursday, May 21: 7.5

**Week 9:**

Tuesday, May 26: 7.6 and 8.1

Thursday, May 28: 8.2

**Week 10:**

Tuesday, June 2: Review

Thursday, June 4: TBA