Philosophy Department

Kalamazoo College
1200 Academy St. Kalamazoo, MI 49006

PHI 420

Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning

Fall 1999

Professor Ken Richman

Course Goals
This course will introduce you to philosophy through the study of logic. By the end of the course, you will have working knowledge of the basic vocabulary and methods of logic, including Aristotelian syllogistic logic and modern propositional and predicate calculus. You will be able to identify arguments in texts. You will be able to express arguments in logical notation (using the predicate calculus), and you will be able to evaluate arguments for validity.

Required Text

Required Work
In order to pass this course you must:

- Attend and participate in all class meetings
- Read assignments from the text before each class meeting
- Complete six problem sets
- Complete two brief written assignments analyzing an argument from a non-academic source
- Complete one midterm examination on Friday of 5th Week
- Complete one final examination at the assigned time during exam period

Grading
Your grade will depend equally on four factors: the midterm exam, the final exam, the problem sets and the two written assignments. The frequency and quality of your class participation can also affect your final grade for the course, especially if your average for the course falls between two grades.

Problem sets and instructions for the short written assignments will be distributed in class. Extensions
will be granted only for true emergencies, serious illness or religious holidays when the instructor is notified and agrees in advance of the deadline. There will be no extensions granted after the deadlines. Assignments handed in late without prior permission of the instructor will receive a grade of F. Students who fail to attend an exam without prior permission of the instructor will receive a course grade of F.

### Schedule

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Basic concepts: arguments, validity and soundness</td>
<td>Friday: Problem Set 1 due</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Informal Fallacies, Introduction to categorical propositions</td>
<td>Friday: Problem Set 2 due; Instructions for First Written Assignment distributed</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Categorical Propositions</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Categorical Syllogisms</td>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Introduction to Propositional Calculus; Review</td>
<td>Friday: Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Propositional Calculus</td>
<td>Friday: Problem Set 4 due; Instructions for Second Written Assignment distributed</td>
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<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Predicate Calculus</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Relational Predicates</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Review</td>
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Please direct any questions or comments to the [Chair](mailto:chair@kalamazoo.edu) of the Department.

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