

## PHIL 1440: INTRODUCTORY LOGIC

Summer 2015

Instructor: Shane Gronholz

[Shane.gronholz@colorado.edu](mailto:Shane.gronholz@colorado.edu)

720-334-4078

Monday-Friday | 12:45-2:20 | Hellems 237

Office Hours: Monday-Friday | 2:20-3:20 | Hellems 15

Book: *The Power of Logic Smartbook* by Frances Howard-Snyder et. al.

*"The man who has no tincture of philosophy goes through life imprisoned in the prejudices derived from common sense, from the habitual beliefs of his age or his nation, and from convictions which have grown up in his mind without the co-operation or consent of his deliberate reason." – Bertrand Russell*

### Course Description

From p.1 of our textbook: "Some people think well, reason well, and argue well. Some do not." The goal of this course is to ensure that you fall into the former category rather than the latter.

Logic is the study (or science) of arguments. We use arguments to try to persuade others to think the way that we think; others, of course, reciprocate. It is important to be able to discern good arguments from bad ones, because it is important to know whether the conclusion of an argument is true. Since arguments are present in every field of inquiry, the subject matter of this course is applicable to almost everything (including most of your college courses and post-graduate exams such as the GRE and LSAT). The purpose of this course is not to teach students what to think, but rather how to think.

Since this is an introductory course, we are going to focus mainly on informal logic. We won't be studying symbolic logic, truth tables, or proofs. You will study these if you take further courses in logic. For this course, I want to focus on skills that will have the broadest appeal and application. These skills will help you in nearly any line of work, and even in your personal lives. With that in mind, we will be covering roughly half the book: Chapters 1-4 and 10.

### Course Format

Since this class is so small, it can be highly student lead. We can use classtime virtually however you wish. It might be different every day. I can go over difficult concepts with the class, you can work in small groups, I can give you one-on-one help. It's up to you!

## **Online**

We will be using Connect, which contains the Smartbook version of our textbook. Our online class can be found here:

<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/s-gronholz-philosophy-1440>

## **Assessment**

1. **Exams:** There will be 5 short exams, one after each chapter. Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade (75% total).
2. **Daily assignments:** These can be found on the Connect website. Read the assigned section in full. Then click on “Practice.” You will be guided through a series of questions, which adapt based on how well you answer. The Smartbook will keep an updated score of how well you have learned the material. You may continue to practice, and go back and read and re-read if necessary, until you reach 100%. Your cumulative score for these assignments are worth 25% of your final grade.
3. It is also highly recommended that you practice what you have learned by doing the exercises in the book. There will also be a “Practice Exercises” section in Connect with more questions. Questions on the exams will be very similar (even identical) to these practice questions. If you do the exercises, there is a good chance you will do well on the exams. If not, not.

## **Policies, tips, and other stuff:**

*Late work:* Late work will not be accepted. See below for due dates.

*Extra credit:* Extra credit will not be offered. Stay on top of things.

*Email:* From time to time, I may send you emails with important information about the class, including changes to the course schedule. You will be responsible for the information I send via email.

*Other grading notes:* Grades are not a personal evaluation of you, and they do not report how hard you tried. They report only how well you performed. Do not worry too much about your grade, since for most of you, minor differences between grades will have little to no effect on your future lives.

## **Schedule**

(Subject to change)

Each reading assignment is due at 11:59 pm on the days for which they are assigned.

- 7.7 1.1 Introduction
- 7.8 1.1 Validity and Soundness
- 7.9 1.2 Forms and Validity
- 7.10 1.3 Forms and Counterexamples

- 7.13 1.4 Strength and Cogency

### **EXAM 1**

- 7.15 2.1 Arguments and Nonarguments
- 7.16 2.2 Well-Crafted Arguments
- 7.17 2.3 Arguments and Diagrams

### **EXAM 2**

- 7.21 3.1 Logic, Meaning, and Emotive Force
- 7.22 3.2 Definitions
- 7.23 3.3 Using Definitions to Evaluate Arguments

### **EXAM 3**

- 7.27 4.1 Fallacies of Irrelevance
- 7.28 4.2 Fallacies Involving Ambiguity
- 7.29 4.3 Fallacies Involving Unwarranted Assumptions
- 7.30 Class Canceled

### **EXAM 4**

- 8.3 10.1 Inductive and Deductive Logic
- 8.4 10.2 Ordinary Reasoning
- 8.5 10.3 Scientific Reasoning
- 8.6 10.4 Probabilistic Reasoning

### **EXAM 5**

**Fine Print:**

1. honor code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>
2. classroom environment: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)
3. disabilities: if you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and see <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>
4. religious holidays: campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you anticipate any such conflicts this semester, please contact me in a timely manner so that we can make arrangements that will be acceptable to you. For further information see: [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)
5. discrimination, harassment, amorous relationships: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student in this class who believes he or she has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>