

PHILOS/LPS 29: Critical Reasoning (Summer I, 2013)

July 18, 2013

Instructor: Samuel C. Fletcher

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Office Hours: SST 706, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 pm – 1 pm, and by appointment

Classroom: SSPA 1165

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am – 11:50 am. We will have two 5-minute breaks approximately 1/3 and 2/3 through each class period.

Required Text: Nolt, Rohatyn, and Varzi, *Schaum's Outline of Logic*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011. Alternatively, by the same authors, *Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Logic*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Other Materials: Please come to every class with your i-clicker, paper, and either a pencil or a pen in blue or black ink.

Class Website: <https://eee.uci.edu/13y/66010>

Objectives

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to:

1. identify arguments and evaluate their soundness and validity;
2. identify and explain fallacies of reasoning;
3. translate arguments and sentences from a natural language like English to a formal language; and
4. apply a variety of technical methods to evaluate and develop arguments in that formal language.

Evaluation

Exams (60%) There will be two closed-book exams, each worth 30% of your grade, on July 16th and August 1st. Although the latter exam will not be cumulative, understanding much of the material in the second half of the course depends on mastering that of the first half.

Homework (32%) There will be four homework assignments, each worth 8% of your grade, due during the first break of class on July 2nd, 11th, 23th, and 30th. You may discuss the homework problems with your classmates but the document you turn in should be your own. Late homeworks will be accepted in the box outside SST 708 up to 24 hours after they're due, but with a multiplier of 75% (i.e., the final score on a late homework will be 75% of the regular score).

Participation (8%) In class there will be periodic i-clicker questions that you can use to help test your understanding. There will also be periodic group work, which will be turned in during class. Both the i-clicker questions and group work will be graded for completeness, not correctness.

Extra Credit (+1%) I encourage you to fill out the class evaluation honestly and thoughtfully at the end of the term. Your responses, which I cannot view until after grades are submitted to the registrar, are anonymous and will help me improve my teaching.

Computing Your Letter Grade

A+ \geq 97	90 > B+ \geq 87	80 > C+ \geq 77	60 > D+ \geq 67	
97 > A \geq 93	87 > B \geq 83	77 > C \geq 73	67 > D \geq 63	F < 60
93 > A- \geq 90	83 > B- \geq 80	73 > C- \geq 70	63 > D- \geq 60	

Policies

Absences If you foresee being absent for any class meeting, it is your responsibility to notify me during the first week of classes. If such an absence fall on the date of an exam or on the due date of a homework, alternative dates will be worked out on an individual basis. Unplanned but justified absences (e.g., medical emergencies) require proper documentation.

Students with Disabilities Please contact me during the first week of class if you will need to take exams through the Disability Service Center or anticipate difficulty participating in class due to a disability. The sooner you notify me, the better that I will be able to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity The University is an institution of learning, research, and scholarship predicated on the existence of an environment of honesty and integrity. As members of the academic community, faculty, students, and administrative officials share responsibility for maintaining this environment. It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic honesty and integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and

will not be tolerated at the University of California, Irvine. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the University's educational, research, and social roles. They devalue the learning experience and its legitimacy not only for the perpetrators but for the entire community.

Any violation of the University's academic integrity policies will be reported to appropriate Associate Deans. More information about the University's academic integrity policies is available at the following link: <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm#academic>

Inclusiveness Diversity and inclusion are critical to the institutional and academic mission of the University. In this class, we strive to maintain a safe learning environment for students that is respectful of all despite differences in age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, geographic origin, language, marital status, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic or veteran status.

Accordingly, if you have a preferred name or pronoun, please contact me so that I can do my best to follow your preferences.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Notes
Tu 6/25	Course Introduction, Argument Structure	Ch. 1.1–3, 1.6	
Th 6/27	Argument Evaluation, Structure cont'd	Ch. 1.4–5, 2	
Tu 7/2	Fallacies	Ch. 8	HW #1 due
Th 7/4			Independence Day
Tu 7/9	Logical Operators, Formalization	Ch. 1.8, 3.1–3	
Th 7/11	Semantics, Truth Tables	Ch. 3.4–6	HW #2 due
Tu 7/16	Exam #1		
Th 7/18	Inference	Ch. 4.1–2	
Tu 7/23	Hypothetical and Derived Rules	Ch. 4.3–4	HW #3 due
Th 7/25	Theorems and Equivalences	Ch. 4.5–6	
Tu 7/30	Review and Further Topics		HW #4
Th 8/1	Exam #2		