

# Logic and Critical Thinking (PHIL 2020)

Fall 2013

Dr. Jennifer Wang

Ms. Nastassja Pugliese

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The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

## Lectures and Discussion Sections

Lectures are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:15am to 12:05pm in Peabody Hall 115. All students must also be officially enrolled in one of the following discussion sections:

R	9:30am – 10:45am	Military Building Army ROTC 4
F	10:10am – 11:00am	Peabody Hall 205S
F	11:15am – 12:05am	New College 118
F	12:20pm – 1:10pm	Journalism Building 515

## Office Hours

Dr. Wang  
Office: Peabody 129  
E-mail: [jwang5@uga.edu](mailto:jwang5@uga.edu)  
Hours: T 2:00-4:00pm  
and by appointment

Ms. Pugliese  
Office: Peabody 120  
E-mail: [nsap@uga.edu](mailto:nsap@uga.edu)  
Hours: R 10:45am-12:45pm  
and by appointment

## Course Objectives

In this course, students will acquire and practice the skills associated with argument analysis. This includes learning how to recognize arguments, reconstruct arguments clearly and charitably, and evaluate their rational strength. Along the way, students will be introduced to informal and formal reasoning tools.

## Planned Topics

Deductive and Inductive Arguments  
Introduction to Propositional and Predicate Logic  
Reconstructing Arguments  
Evaluating Arguments  
Statistical and Causal Reasoning

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion section meetings, complete assigned problems, take in-class exams, and otherwise participate in class activities.

## **Grading Policy**

Out of four exams, the lowest grade will be dropped. The three highest-scoring exams will count equally towards the student's final grade. The exams will be graded on the 100-point scale, but the final grade will be converted to the 4.0 scale.

## **Attendance Policy**

1. Attendance in lectures will not be recorded.
2. Attendance in discussion sections is required and recorded. Each student may miss two meetings without penalty, but after that, each meeting she misses will result in a 0.5% deduction from her final grade.
3. Since students are allowed three absences, there is no distinction between 'excused' and 'unexcused' absences. Students should plan accordingly. In extreme circumstances, a student with more than three absences may meet with Dr. Wang and Ms. Pugliese to discuss further options.

## **Textbooks and Resources**

1. Richard Feldman, *Reason & Argument*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. This textbook is available for purchase in the bookstore. It may also be purchased (used or new) or rented online.
2. Graeme Forbes, *Modern Logic*. The relevant chapters of this textbook are available online for free in pdf form: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~forbesg/modlogtoc.html>
3. Additional materials and online resources, including reference works and media, will be made available on the course website.

## **Course Website**

The course website may be accessed through eLC-New (<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>).

## **Honor**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

## Class Schedule

	Date		Unit	Topic	Reading
M	12-Aug	First day	1	Introduction, Chapter 1, syllabus	Feldman p.1-21
W	14-Aug		1	Chapter 2	Feldman p.26-48
F	16-Aug				
M	19-Aug		1	Intro to arguments	Feldman p.55-66
W	21-Aug		1	Propositional Logic I	Forbes 1-2.3
F	23-Aug				
M	26-Aug		1	Propositional Logic II	Forbes 2.4
W	28-Aug		1	Validity (propositional)	Feldman p.66-72
F	30-Aug				
M	2-Sep	Holiday			
W	4-Sep		2	Truth tables for sentences	Forbes 3.1-3.2
F	6-Sep				
M	9-Sep			<b>Exam 1</b>	
W	11-Sep		2	Truth tables for arguments	Forbes 3.3-3.4
F	13-Sep				
M	16-Sep		2	Predicate Logic I (introduction and translations)	
W	18-Sep		2	Predicate Logic II (Venn diagrams)	
F	20-Sep				
M	23-Sep		2	Validity (predicate)	Feldman p.73-74
W	25-Sep		2	Invalidity (propositional and predicate)	Feldman p.86-80
F	27-Sep				
M	30-Sep		2	Deductive Strength	Feldman p.94-100
W	2-Oct		3	Cogency	Feldman p.80-92
F	4-Oct				
M	7-Oct			<b>Exam 2</b>	
W	9-Oct		3	Inductive Strength	Feldman p.102-107
F	11-Oct				
M	14-Oct		3	Reconstructing Arguments I	Feldman p.113-128
W	16-Oct		3	Reconstructing Arguments II	Feldman p.129-153, 159-163
F	18-Oct				
M	21-Oct		3	Evaluating arguments I	Feldman p.167-188
W	23-Oct		3	Evaluating arguments II	Feldman p.189-213
F	25-Oct				
M	28-Oct		4	Informal fallacies	

W	30-Oct			<b>Exam 3</b>	
F	1-Nov	Fall Break			
M	4-Nov		4	Statistical arguments I	Feldman p.232-247
W	6-Nov		4	Statistical arguments II	Feldman p.247-269
F	8-Nov				
M	11-Nov		4	Causal arguments I	Feldman p.277-294
W	13-Nov		4	Causal arguments II	Feldman p.296-318
F	15-Nov				
M	18-Nov		4	Review	
W	20-Nov			<b>Exam 4</b>	
F	22-Nov				
M	25-Nov	Thanksgiving			
W	27-Nov	Thanksgiving			
F	29-Nov	Thanksgiving			
M	2-Dec	Last day		Extra Credit	
T	3-Dec	Friday Class			