PHIL 125A Practical Logic

3 Credits, 16 weeks, 3 hours lecture

Practical Logic refers to the elementary methods and principles for analyzing, evaluating and constructing arguments. The course will focus on theory, explaining the core concepts and theoretical tools necessary for proper philosophical reasoning. This theoretical study will provide an introduction to forma notation, syllogism, informal fallacies, definitions and common argument forms. The course will also include instruction in the practical use of logic by explaining the skills and procedures used in sound argumentation. This practical exercise will provide basic instruction in writing arguments, evaluating media and applying diagnostic methods to reasoning as it occurs in contemporary debates.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Mondays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Tuesdays 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Fridays 3:00pm – 4:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Tuesdays 1:00pm – 1:50pm
Thursdays 12:00pm – 1:50pm

Required Resources


Other relevant materials will be provided by the instructor.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Make important technical distinctions in regard to language and arguments.
2. Interpret and critically assess important texts and arguments.
3. Identify different forms of reasoning and fallacies.

Evaluation
Students will be evaluated on the basis of three term exams and one final exam. These exams will increase in difficulty and value with each exam. Only the final exam will be cumulative, while each term exam will only cover new material. These exams will be both content and skill based, and an outline for each exam will be provided before the exam.

First Exam 29 January 15%
Second Exam 5 March 20%
Third Exam 2 April  25%
Final Exam TBA  40%
Total 100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Alpha Grade</th>
<th>4.0 Scale</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Rubric for Letter Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>&gt; 92.9</td>
<td>Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>85 – 92.9</td>
<td>Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>80 – 84.9</td>
<td>Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>77 – 79.9</td>
<td>Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>74 – 76.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>70 – 73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory Progression</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>67 – 69.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>64 – 66.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>60 – 63.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>55 – 59.9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Pass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>50 – 54.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
<td>Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.</td>
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</tbody>
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Proposed Schedule of Topics

   1.1 What’s in a Name?
   1.2 Critical Thinking and the Search for Good Reasons
   1.3 Who’s to Say What a Good Reason Is?
   1.4 Good Reasons, Better Arguments and Rationality
   1.5 Rational Discourse: Giving Reasons

2. Arguments
   2.1 Argument Structure and Construction
   2.2 The Argument: Form and Function
   2.3 Arguments and Non-arguments
   2.4 Units of Meaning
   2.5 Standard Form for Simple Arguments
   2.6 Enthymemes and the Principle of Charity
2.7 Standard Form for Complex Arguments  
2.8 Expressing Yourself in Argument Form

3. Language

3.2 Definitions: Explaining Meaning  
3.3 Definitions: Arguing Meaning  
3.4 Understanding Conditionals and the Relationship of Implication  
3.5 Language and the Gap between Intention and Communication

4. Good Arguments

4.1 Evaluating Arguments  
4.2 Arguments, Arguers and Conclusions: Where to Start Your Evaluation  
4.7 Acceptability  
4.8 Relevance  
4.9 Sufficiency

5. Bad Arguments

5.1 Fallacy Spotting and Building a Better Argument  
Specific Fallacies will be the focus, and relevant pages given in the lecture(s)

6. Deduction

6.1 The Three Modes of Argumentation  
6.3 Validity  
6.4 Categorical Logic  
6.6 Immediate Inferences  
6.7 Syllogisms  
6.8 Propositional Logic  
Valid Deductive Arguments  
6.9 The Strengths and Weaknesses of Deduction

7. Induction

7.1 Induction and Reasoning from Observation  
7.5 Inductive Justification and Scientific Methods

Please Note:
Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

Performance Requirements

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.
Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students’ learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person’s work as one’s own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment

Penalties for academic offences range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.
Authorization
This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

[First Name, Last Name], Instructor

[First Name, Last Name], Chair  Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean  Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:
Instructor
Registrar’s Office