

# Introduction to Logic

PHIL 2303-01  
Fall 2005

MW 8:35 - 9:50 a.m.  
Academic 10

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Academic O-3

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Office hours: MW: 10:00 - 11:50 a.m.; TR 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.; and by appointment

## Course Description

Philosophy 2303: Introduction to Logic develops critical thinking skills, especially the ability to distinguish correct from incorrect reasoning, by an exploration of the major areas of modern symbolic logic. Among the topics covered are translating statements from natural to symbolic language, truth tables and natural deduction for propositional logic, and models and natural deduction for predicate logic. No prerequisites. Three class hours per week. Three semester hours credit.

## Course Objectives

Philosophy 2303 develops students' competencies in working with the basic concepts of logic including recognizing validity, truth, soundness, strength, and cogency as characteristics of arguments; distinguishing between an argument's premises and conclusions; distinguishing between deductive and inductive reasoning; and recognizing informal fallacies.

Students develop competencies in propositional logic including translating ordinary language propositions into symbolic propositional notation; determining the truth values of symbolized compound propositions; classifying and comparing symbolized propositions; evaluating symbolized arguments by implementing truth tables and/or truth trees; learning the rules of inference and replacement; and applying these rules in order to demonstrate the validity of any argument of propositional logic.

Students develop competencies in predicate logic including translating ordinary language propositions into symbolic predicate notation; (learning the rules of inference, replacement, and quantifier change); (applying these rules in order to demonstrate the validity of any argument in predicate logic); and (proving the invalidity of arguments in predicate logic using the finite universe model).

## Required Text

Hurley, Patrick J. A Concise Introduction to Logic. 9th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2006.

## Course Requirements

The student is required to bring the Hurley text to every class meeting.

The student will complete four major examinations and a required comprehensive final (with course inventory).

The student should prepare himself or herself for not a few unannounced quizzes.

## Grade Determination

## Important Dates: Tentative

highest three major exam grades	60%	19 September	major examination
lowest major exam grade	10%	10 October	major examination
active participation and homework	10%	31 October	major examination
final examination (including course inventory)	20%	28 November	major examination

Make-up exams will be scheduled only in the direst of circumstances. either 9 Dec. or 14 Dec. final examination

Homework will be assigned at the end of the class meeting. All homework is subject to being collected; however, not all homework will be collected, nor will all collected homework be graded. Sloppy and illegibly written homework will receive a zero. Twelve graded homework assignments will be averaged into the final grade.

Student's full name and the date that the homework is assigned, as well as other information, must appear on the first page of the submitted work (left side, not in top margin). Write on only one side of the paper. Submit homework on loose-leaf paper: do not submit work on ragged-edged pages ripped from spiral notebooks etc. Points will be deducted. See sample below.

	Sandra Elster
	Professor Bernier
	PHIL 2303-01
	23 September 2005
	Homework: Section 1.1

### **Class Attendance: Class Attendance Is Expected**

Students are expected to attend all classes. An accurate record of each student's attendance is kept by each instructor. It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class he or she is no longer attending. To officially drop a class, the student must obtain [a] class withdrawal form from [the] admissions office, complete the class withdrawal form, secure the required signatures, and return the completed form to Enrollment Services. A student who is subject to the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) rules and who [accrues] the equivalent of two weeks of absences in the required developmental course will be withdrawn from the course. An appeals process is in place for these students. Students are not assessed absences when representing Blinn College. Class days missed [because of] inclement weather will be made up as appropriate. A student on scholastic or disciplinary probation should not have any unexcused absences (2005-2006 Blinn College Student Handbook 9).

**NB:** The instructor is not responsible for ensuring that the student who elects not to attend class and who chooses not to complete a Change of Registration Card is dropped from this course. It is the student's responsibility to officially drop the class. Check the academic calendar for Last Day to Drop dates. The student accruing six hours of absences during the course of a long or short academic term is well on the way to ensuring his or her failing the course.

**NB:** Because this instructor expects each student to participate fully during each class meeting, he views arriving to class late and, especially, leaving class before it is dismissed inexcusable.

### **Other Concerns**

The student is responsible for all assignments, including those made during any class meeting from which the student has absented him- or herself. Any clarification of directions, etc. for any assigned work will take place during the instructor's conference hours. All assigned work is due before or on the designated day and time. Unless indicated otherwise, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day designated. If a student is unable to attend class on the day that an assignment is due, he or she should nevertheless ensure that the instructor receives the assignment by the designated time. Daily quizzes can be made up only if the student's absence is excused in accordance with Blinn College attendance policy. No late work.

Conference hours are reserved for students who come to class on a very regular basis: These students are encouraged to seek clarification or to pursue a line of questioning stemming from either classroom discussion or individual reading. If, however, the student's need for a conference is more along the lines of academic progress, the student—no matter how many classes he might have missed—should come by to discuss viable options.

Because the nature of the course and the nature of the presentation both invite classroom discussion, any potential impediment to the free flow of ideas cannot be allowed; therefore, **no mechanical recording of class meetings is allowed**. See instructor.

No cell phone activity whatsoever once the classroom's threshold has been crossed. No food or drink in the classroom.

### **Scholastic Integrity**

Pride of accomplishment is the boon of any academic achievement. It should be the goal of each student to put forth the best effort possible for each assignment; progression toward better writing is the reward of diligent application to the tasks assigned. The student who demonstrates a lack of integrity by seeking academic gain (good grades, scholarships, etc.) through avenues that circumvent the rigors and rewards of truthful scholarship will be, at some point, thwarted and ill-prepared to work within an honest system. The 2005-2006 Blinn College Student Handbook states on page 43 that it is "the responsibility of instructors to maintain scholastic integrity at Blinn College by refusing to tolerate any form of scholastic dishonesty. Adequate control of test materials, strict supervision during testing, and other preventative measures should be utilized, as necessary, to prevent cheating or plagiarism. If there is compelling evidence that a student is involved in cheating or plagiarism, the instructor should assume responsibility and address the infraction." Additionally, Blinn Board Policy FLB (Local) defines plagiarism as the "appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work." All students should be aware of the several different types--not levels--of plagiarism, including the failure to properly indicate directly quoted passages, phrasings, or significant wordings as such by the proper use of quotation marks, as well as other failures, including misattribution of cited material, as early as possible in the semester. Students should also be made aware that collusion is considered to be as egregious an offense as plagiarism is. Blinn Board Policy FLB (Local) defines collusion as the "unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements."

### **Students with Disabilities**

Blinn College would like to help students with disabilities achieve their highest potential in college. In order to receive accommodations on examinations or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Disability Services located in room 104 of the Administration Building (979 830 4157). The student must then self-identify and conference with the ADA office to begin receiving accommodations in a class.

### **Decorum / Civility Statement**

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff, and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behav[ing] in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

**Tentative Course Outline****Fall 2005**Hurley's A Concise Introduction to Logic 9e.

M	29 August	section	1.1	M	17 October	section	6.3
W	31 August	sections	1.2 and 1.3	W	19 October	section	6.3
M	5 September	section	1.4 and 1.5	M	24 October	section	6.4
W	7 September	sections	2.2 - 2.4	W	26 October	section	6.6
M	12 September	sections	3.1 and 3.2	M	31 October	→ major exam	
W	14 September	sections	3.3 – 3.5	W	2 November	section	7.1
M	19 September	→ major exam		M	7 November	section	7.1
W	21 September	sections	4.1 – 4.4	W	9 November	section	7.2
M	26 September	sections	4.4 and 4.5	M	14 November	section	7.2
W	28 September	sections	4.6 and 4.7	W	16 November	section	7.3
M	3 October	section	5.1 - 5.3	M	21 November	section	7.4
W	5 October	section	5.4 – 5.6	M	28 November	→ major exam	
M	10 October	→ major exam		W	30 November	sections	8.1
W	12 October	section	6.1 – 6.3	M	5 December	sections	9.1 – 9.3
				W	7 December		9.4 – 9.6
				either	R	9 December	→ final 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
				or	W	14 December	→ final 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.