

Philosophy 1102: Philosophy and Logic Fall '20

Class: TuTh 8:00-9:15 AM

Instructor: Christopher Rahlwes

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(always include '1102' in the subject if you send me an e-mail)

Hours for questions and concerns: Wednesday 1:30-3:30

Description

The course provides an introduction into critical thinking. Common fallacies are explained. Criteria for good reasoning and bad arguments will be introduced. Good reasoning and detecting bad argument are fundamental for philosophy, but further they are a skill everyone should have.

The course has three parts:

1. valid arguments, informal deductive and inductive reasoning, and fallacies;
2. statistical and scientific reasoning: the basics and the traps;
3. first steps into formal logic.

No mathematical skills etc. are required to take the course. The statistical and scientific reasoning is very basic and built up from scratch, and so is the formal logic.

Textbook

Stan Baronett: Logic. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2019.

There are condensed versions of the book, make sure you have purchased the complete version (ISBN 9780190691714). The second or third edition of this book (also from OUP) contains some mistakes that are corrected in the fourth edition. It is OK to use the second or third edition, e.g., if you already have it, but keep in mind that these editions have some errors. The first edition of Baronett's book (from a different publisher) is not suitable for this course. Additional material may be distributed during lectures, discussion sections, and on HuskyCT. This extra material will be part of homework assignments and exams.

Flip Class

The lectures will be pre-recorded. After the first week, you will be required to come to only one of the two classes per week. You must watch the lecture before attending this class. Class time will not be used for lecturing, but instead will be used to discuss problems, answer questions, and do in-class assignments. **We will not be meeting on Election Day (please watch the online lecture instead).**

Requirements & Examination

Regular attendance of the lectures is necessary to be successful in the course. If you miss a lecture, make sure to get notes from a fellow student, since often additional material is introduced that may be part of homework assignments and exams. You are required to read the assigned readings (see below) before the respective lecture.

Weekly homework assignments are online on HuskyCT (<http://lms.uconn.edu/>). (For technical help go to <https://helpcenter.uconn.edu/>.) Handing in homework late is not possible. Missing homework is graded 0%. If you must miss an assignment for a good reason (e.g., serious illness), contact me as soon as you can.

The final grade will be determined thus:

Midterm exam: 25%

In class assignments: 10%

Homework assignments: 40%

Final exam: 25%

Letter grade cut-offs:

A 93% C 73%

A- 90% C- 70%

B+ 87% D+ 67%

B 83% D 63%

B- 80% D- 60%

C+ 77% F below 60%

These are cut-off points:
decimals will not be rounded up.

POLICIES AND GENERAL NOTES:

1. **Disabilities:** *The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020, or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.*
2. **Academic Integrity:** *This course expects all students to act in accordance with the Guidelines for Academic Integrity at the University of Connecticut. Because questions of intellectual property are important to the field of this course, we will discuss academic honesty as a topic and not just a policy. If you have questions about academic integrity or intellectual property, you should consult with your instructor. Additionally, consult UConn's [guidelines for academic integrity](#).*
3. **Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence:** *The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate amorous relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate amorous relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Additionally, to protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report sexual assaults, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking involving a student that they witness*

or are told about to the Office of Institutional Equity. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help.

- a. **Etiquette:** Differing opinions and arguments are encouraged. You should never feel embarrassed or ashamed about your opinion, concern, or question, but you must put it forth in a respectful manner. **Do not mock someone for their opinion. Do not speak when someone else is speaking. Do not use slurs.**
4. **Copyright:** My lectures, notes, handouts, and displays are protected by state common law and federal copyright law. They are my own original expression and I've recorded them prior or during my lecture in order to ensure that I obtain copyright protection. Students are authorized to take notes in my class; however, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use. I will inform you as to whether you are authorized to record my lectures at the beginning of each semester. If you are so authorized to record my lectures, you may not copy this recording or any other material, provide copies of either to anyone else, or make a commercial use of them without prior permission from me.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic / Assigned Reading</u>
1	9/1 9/3	Introduction <u>Chapter 1: What Logic Studies</u> , A-C
2	Flip Class Beings 9/9 & 9/10	<i>What Logic Studies</i> , D-G <u>Chapter 2: Language, Meaning, Definitions</u> , A-B
3	9/15 & 9/17	<i>Language, Meaning, Definitions</i> , C-F
4	9/22 & 9/24	<u>Chapter 3: Diagrams & Analysis</u>
5	9/29 & 10/1	<u>Chapter 4: Informal Fallacies</u> A-D
6	10/6 & 10/8	<i>Informal Fallacies</i> E Review for Midterm
7	10/13 & 10/15	<u>Chapter 13: Statistical Arguments</u> , A-D 10/15 by 11:59 P.M. Midterm is Due
8	10/20 & 10/22	<u>Chapter 14: Scientific Arguments</u> , A-H
9	10/27 & 10/29	<u>Chapter 5: Categorical Propositions</u> A-I

- 10 11/3 Election Day. Watch online lecture.
 11/5 Chapter 6: Categorical Syllogisms, A-C & G-I
- 11 11/10 & 11/12 Chapter 7: Propositional Logic- translations, A & B
- 12 11/17 & 11/10 *Propositional Logic- C & D*
- 13 11/24 & 11/26 Fall/Thanksgiving Break**
- 14 12/1 & 12/3 *Propositional Logic- E-H*
- 15 ~~12/8 & 12/9~~—~~Catch Up/ Review~~
- 16 12/14-18 Finals Week
 Final is TBD