

PHILOSOPHY A150: *CRITICAL REASONING and WRITING*

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2017 Orange Coast College



Class Meetings: T, Th 9:35 am – 11:00 am, SS-105

Office Hours: M 11 am – 12 pm SS-116

Instructor: Michael Monge

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Course Website: <http://www.monge.net/phil12mm/>

Text: *Logic for Beginners*, Second edition, by Michael J. Monge



Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Competently use basic logical terms, such as valid and sound, and be able to apply them.
- Demonstrate proficiency in identifying, explicating, and criticizing arguments.
- Recognize and avoid using common fallacies.
- Use proof techniques, including Venn diagrams and Truth Tables, to decisively establish validity.
- Use symbolic representations to capture and evaluate arguments based on truth-functional logic.
- Apply these techniques to actual arguments which they may encounter in their lives, whether in the academic world or outside it.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: 1. Critically evaluate, assess and present types and properties of arguments and use logical techniques to determine and justify their structural features and claims. 2. Write an argumentative paper with good formatting, persuasive reasoning, good logic and argumentation and a sensitivity to objections to their arguments.

Grading: Exams will be taken on scantron 886E forms, and will include multiple-choice, short essay questions and/or exercises which require proofs. Each exam will be subject to an appropriate curve, if necessary. The final exam will include material from the entire semester. If you have participated regularly in the class, and thus enriched the educational experience for the rest of the students, you may receive up to an additional point and a half, so you might still receive an A for an 88.5%.

Percent value for each exercise	
45%	Mid-term exams (4)
25%	Final Exam
15%	Required Paper due 3/23
15%	Quizzes/Activities
(50%)	Optional Paper

Final Grade Scale	
90%-100%	A
80%-89.9%	B
70%-79.9%	C
60%-69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

Homework and Assignments: Homework will be assigned, generally every day we meet. It will not be graded, but I may collect it on occasion. Your completion of homework may be used as a basis to judge participation. This class is a collaborative effort by all students and as such homework assignments, written essays, and quizzes might be examined, corrected, and even graded by other students, for everyone's benefit. Please inform me at the beginning of the semester if you have any objections to this policy.

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance in class and laboratory sessions is an obligation assumed by every student. The Orange Coast College Attendance Policies state that "instructors may drop a student from a course when absences number the equivalent of two weeks of class recorded from the first day of instruction." Students who have more than 4 absences/8 tardies should expect to be dropped from the course. NOTE: I will generally take roll at the beginning of class. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of class.

Make-up work: There will be no make-up exams. Your lowest midterm score will be dropped. Don't worry about missing quizzes; your grade will only reflect quizzes which you take. When absent, you may receive any homework assignment on the day you return, and turn in the assignment the following class period. No work will be accepted late.

Drop Policy and Distractions: It is your responsibility to drop this course. See below for relevant dates. If you fail to drop yourself and do not complete the course, you will likely receive an "F" for the course. Although it is your responsibility to drop the course, you may be dropped if you miss an exam without notifying me or do not attend class for two weeks. All students have a right to an undisrupted and undistracted learning experience, and so all disruptions

or distractions in the classroom will be considered a violation of this right. You will receive one warning **for the entire semester** for any distraction or disruption you cause, which includes, but is not limited to, a ringing cell phone. On the second offense, you will lose your attendance point for the day. On your third violation, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day.

Students with Disabilities: Students who believe that they have some physical, learning, or psychological disability and that they are entitled to academic accommodations should notify me and contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) at (714) 432-5807. I would be happy to work with any student who is academically disadvantaged in any way.

Office Hours and Tutoring: Mr. Monge will hold office hours Monday from 11 am to 12 pm. They will be held in SS 116, and no appointment is necessary. In addition, there may be free tutoring available for this and other classes at the Student Success Center in room C & L 103. You can reach them at (714) 432-5559.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, copying assignments, and collaborating on an assignment without explicit permission. Punishment for academic dishonesty can range from getting a zero on the assignment to expulsion. Please review your school's policies regarding academic dishonesty, or ask me if you have any questions.

Note: For me to assign you a grade means I am certifying that you have earned it. I cannot give you a grade unless I am confident that you have completed the assignment on your own. This means that if I have presumptive evidence that you have cheated on an assignment, or that the work is not your own, then I have the right to withhold a grade for the assignment, which would be equivalent to a zero for the assignment. I do not have to prove that you cheated in order to give you a zero for an assignment. In this event, I will work with you if you think you can demonstrate that the work was your own.

Incompletes: Incomplete grades will be assigned only in the case of documented medical emergencies. Otherwise each student will receive a zero for any incomplete assignments at the end of the semester, and the appropriate grade will be recorded.

Tacit Agreement to the Syllabus: *Should you disagree to any of the policies in this syllabus, you may withdraw yourself from the course and take the course with another professor. If you remain enrolled in the course, you are tacitly agreeing to be bound by all policies, procedures, and guidelines stated in the syllabus. See your school catalog for more details of your rights and responsibilities.*

Tentative Schedule: Underlined dates are holidays. Do the assigned reading BEFORE the class meeting.

Week	Days	Topics	Reading Assignments
Week #1	1/31, 2/2	Introduction to the course / Truth, Logic and the Difference / Recognizing arguments	Chapters 1, 2
Week #2	2/7, 9	Standard form arguments / Classifying Arguments	Chapters 4, 5
<u>2/11</u>	Last Day to Drop, request a refund and without a "W" on your transcript		
Week #3	2/14, 16	Evaluating Deductive and Inductive Arguments	Chapters 6, 7
Week #4	<u>2/21</u> , 23	First Exam / Objective and Subjective Statements	
Week #5	2/28, <u>3/2</u>	Categorical Statements / Square of Opposition	Chapters 8, 9
Week #6	3/7, 9	Statement Operations / Circle of Opposition	Chapters 10, 11
Week #7	3/14, 16	Categorical Syllogisms / Translation into Standard Form	Chapters 12, 13
Week #8	<u>3/21</u> , 23	Second Exam / PAPERS DUE / Metaphysics / Truth Functional Connectives	Chapter 14
Week #9	<u>3/28, 30</u>	<u>Spring Recess</u>	
Week #10	4/4, 6	Compound statements / Propositional agreement and conflict	Chapters 15, 16
Week #11	4/11, 13	Truth tables for arguments / Indirect truth tables / Common argument forms	Chapters 17, 18, 19
Week #12	<u>4/18</u> , 20	Third Exam / Logical Paradox	
Week #14	4/25, 27	Inductive arguments / Rhetorical Pitfalls	Chapters 23, 24
<u>4/30</u>	Last Day to Drop with a "W" on transcript		
Week #15	5/2, 4	Argumentative fallacies / Disputational fallacies	Chapters 25, 26
Week #16	<u>5/9</u> , 11	Fourth Exam / Probability and Monty Hall	
Week #17	5/16, 18	Logic puzzles / Application	Chapter 27
	<u>5/23, 25</u>	Final Exam	

I do my best with grading deadlines, but you should check with Admissions for the official dates.