

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts/Philosophy Dept.
PHIL 57

Logic and Critical Reasoning

Section 4

Spring, 2016

Instructor:	Peter Hadreas
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Email:	Peter.Hadreas@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wed. 2:00 to 4:00 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 – 2:45
Classroom:	BBC 130
GE Category:	A3

Course Catalog Description

Basic concepts of logic; goals and standards of both deductive and inductive reasoning; techniques of argument analysis and assessment; evaluation of evidence; language and definition; fallacies.

Student Learning Objectives

- 1: Students should be able to locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.
- 2: Students should be able to present effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view.
- 3: Students should be able to effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas.
- 4: Students should be able to identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument.
- 5: Students should be able to effectively distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).

Required Text

A Concise Introduction to Logic, 12th Edition
by Patrick J. Hurley (Author)
ISBN-13: 978-1285196541
ISBN-10: 1285196546

Canvas Website for this course

<https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1188734>

Classroom Protocol:

Turn off cell-phones while in class and refrain from laptop surfing.

Possible Class Cancellation

The California Faculty Association is in the midst of a difficult contract dispute with management. It is possible that the faculty union will call a strike or other work stoppage this term. I will inform the class as soon as possible of any disruption to our class meeting schedule.

ASSIGNMENTS

Logic and Critical Reasoning are developed through repeated exercises and writing assignments. The instructor will lead students week by week through exercises based in the Hurley textbook. The class work will consist of the four following assignments:

1. There will be a practice quiz given on most Tuesday classes and a graded quiz at the end of eleven Thursday classes. See schedule for which weeks have quizzes. The graded quizzes will be quite short and made up of around five true/false and/or multiple-choice questions.
2. Students will also keep a journal which will be periodically turned into the instructor. (See below "DESCRIPTION OF THE LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING JOURNAL" for details about how to maintain your journal.)
3. There will be a midterm and a final exam that will involve true/false and multiple-choice questions as well as one essay question.
4. Finally there will be a term paper which students will be asked to turn mid-semester. It will be given a provisional grade by the instructor and returned to the students. Students will then turn in their revised version

of the same term paper on the last day of class, Thursday, May 12th for final grading.

5. **Extra Credit:** Students will receive full credit for any quiz they have missed or scored poorly on by bringing in the class for discussion the verbatim statements made in a debate by a presidential candidate. It will be helpful, if students send the statement to the instructor by email a few days before the class so that the presidential candidates remark can be projected on the classroom screen for the class to exam. Instructor's email: Peter.Hadreas@sjsu.edu

DESCRIPTION OF THE LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING JOURNAL

You are asked to purchase a standard wire bound notebook, college ruled, regular sized (8" by 10 ½"). You can purchase such a notebook at the Spartan Bookstore or most any store that sells school supplies. Clearly write your name as well as your student I. D. on the first page of the notebook.

The purpose of the journal is to bridge the gap between the class discussions of issues in logic and critical thinking and real world news items. This semester the news item will be the presidential debates leading to the choice of the Republican and Democratic candidate for the 2016 Presidential Election. In the notebook you will discuss what informal fallacies presidential candidates in the debates commit. Over the semester, you select any four candidates. It makes no difference whether they are Republican or Democratic candidates.

In class we will discuss in more detail how to make the four journal entries about the informal logical fallacies that the candidates commit in a debate. But, **it must be emphasized** that when you discuss the remarks/statements/ arguments of a candidate you must quote those remarks *verbatim* – that is, word-for word – in your notebook or your discussion of the candidate's remarks will not be given credit. You can obtain word-for-word statements of candidates during debates from online news reporting of the debates, from newspapers, or from news magazines.

To fulfill the writing requirement of Philosophy 57 you'll need to write a full account of how a candidate commits a fallacy of reasoning in each of the four cases you select. The instructor will ask you to hand in your notebooks during the semester to see how you are doing in maintaining your notebook.

At the writing of this syllabus the following Presidential debates have been scheduled. As the semester proceeds the schedule of Presidential debates will surely be extended. The debates later in March, April and early May will be announced.

1. Feb. 6, 2016: Republican debate – ABC News/IJReview, Location – St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire, Time – To be Announced
2. Feb. 11, 2016: Democratic debate – PBS, Location – Wisconsin, Time – To be announced
3. Feb. 13, 2016: Republican debate – CBS News, Location – South Carolina, Time – 9 p.m. ET.
4. Feb. 26, 2016: Republican debate – NBC/Telemundo/National Review, Location – Houston, Texas, Time – To be Announced.
5. March 9, 2016: Democratic debate – Univision/The Washington Post, Location – Miami, Florida, Time – To be Announced.
6. March 10, 2016: Republican debate – CNN/Salem Radio, Location – Florida, Time – To be announced.

The Weighting of Assignments in Computing the Course Grade: Eleven graded quizzes @ 2% of grade per quiz totalling 22% of grade; midterm exam 20%; final exam 23%; term paper 20%; completed journal 15%.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct.

SJSU professors are required to prosecute cases of academic dishonesty. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result disciplinary action, likely in a failing grade and/or sanctions by the University.

Students need to be especially careful about copying texts from the Internet. Material from the Internet needs to be cited just as much as hard copy materials from books, articles or journals.

All assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires the approval of the instructor.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during

office hours. Students with disabilities need to register with San Jose State University Accessible Education Center (AEC), formerly known as the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The Center is located in ADMIN 110, Telephone 408-924-6000; email aec-info@sjsu.edu

Special accommodations for exams generally require ample notice -- at least a week -- to the testing office and should be submitted to the instructor well in advance before the exam date.

U. S. Department of Education Policy

U. S. Department of Education document GEN-11-06 published on October 29, 2010 requires that the following language describing time spent outside of class be included in the syllabus:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each hour of class time, a minimum of two hours on preparation, studying or other course related activity. Internships, labs and online courses will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers.

PHIL 57 Course Schedule

(Note: subject to change with fair notice.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28	Introduction to Logic and Critical Reasoning
2	2/2-4	Basic Concepts Read Hurley Chapter 1, pp. 1 -58. Thursday Feb 4, short quiz #1 on material covered this

		week.
3	2/9-11	Basic Concepts continued Read Hurley Chapter 1, pp. 59-79 Thursday Feb 11, short quiz #2 on material covered this week.
4	2/16-18	Language: Meaning and Definition Read Hurley Chapter 2, pp. 80-121 Thursday Feb 18, short quiz #3 on material covered this week.
5	2/23-25	Informal Fallacies – Part I – Fallacies of Relevance Read Hurley Chapter 3, pp. 122-142 paying special attention to the ‘Argument Against the Person’ and the ‘Strawman’ fallacies. Thursday Feb 25, short quiz #4 on material covered this week.
6	3/1-3	Informal Fallacies – Part II – Fallacies of Weak Induction Read Hurley Chapter 3, pp. 143-160 paying special attention to the ‘Appeal to Unqualified Authority,’ ‘Hasty Generalization’ and ‘Slippery Slope’ Fallacies. Thursday March 1, short quiz #5 on material covered this week.
7	3/8-10	Informal Fallacies – Part III – Fallacies of Presumption, Ambiguity and Illicit Transference Read Hurley Chapter 3, pp. 160-181 paying special attention to the ‘False Dichotomy,’ ‘Equivocation’ Fallacies. Thursday March 10, short quiz #6 on material covered this week.
8	3/15-17	Informal Fallacies – Part IV – Fallacies in Ordinary Language Read Hurley Chapter 3, pp. 182-199. Practice in class detecting Fallacies. Thursday March 17: Turn in during class your notebook with a discussion written out of a logical fallacy (or fallacies) committed by at least one presidential candidate.
9	3/22-24	March 22: Practice midterm Exam. March 24: Midterm Exam: Exam will cover all material discussed since the beginning of the course.
		March 28 to April 1: Spring Recess
10	4/5-7	Propositional Logic - I Read Hurley Chapter 6, pp. 316-341.

		Tuesday April 5, topics handed out for term paper. Thursday April 7, short quiz #7 on material covered this week.
11	4/12-14	Propositional Logic - II Read Hurley Chapter 6, pp. 342-386. Thursday April 14, short quiz #8 on material covered this week.
12	4/19-21	Probability Read Hurley Chapter 11, pp. 569-608. Thursday April 19, short quiz #9 on material covered this week.
13	4/26-28	Statistical Reasoning Read Hurley Chapter 12, pp. 587-608 Tuesday, April 26 th – Draft of Term paper handed in Thursday April 28, short quiz #10 on material covered this week.
14	5/3-5	Hypothetical Scientific Reasoning Tuesday May 3, Drafts of Term Papers handed back for final revisions Tuesday May 3, Notebooks with fallacies committed by four presidential candidates handed in. Thursday May 5, short quiz #11 on material covered this week.
15	5/10-12	May 10 and 12 practice for final exam <u>5/12: Term Paper With Final Revisions Handed In.</u>
		<u>Final Exam Time:</u> <u>Thursday, May 19, 12:15-14:30</u>