

San Jose State University
Philosophy Department
Philosophy 57: Logic and Critical Reasoning, Section 1(40359)
Fall 2015

Instructor: Ryan Ruiz

Office Location: FOB 207

Email: ryan.ruiz@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: M W 10:30-11:30 am

Class Days/Time: M W 9:00-10:15 am

Classroom: DMH 149B

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Area A3: Basic Skills, Critical Thinking

Course 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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

This is an introductory course in logic and critical reasoning. Thus, we will cover basic concepts in argumentation and correct reasoning, both formal and informal. We will devote the first few weeks to informal argumentation, rhetoric, persuasive techniques, and fallacies. Next we will focus on formal logic, beginning with classical logic and ending with propositional logic. In each section we will apply these methods in written assignments.

A3 courses have a 6,000 word writing requirement. This writing requirement will be partially satisfied by two 1,000 word essays. Students will turn in a draft and revision of each essay. The remainder of the writing requirement will be completed by in class and/or homework assignments.

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

1. Recognize the difference between an argument and a nonargument.
2. Critically examine arguments and assess their success or failure, and represent such arguments symbolically when required.

3. Identify fallacious arguments.
4. Practically apply these skills to other areas of thought, in the university and everyday life.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

P.Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic* (Any addition acceptable, currently in its 12th printing)

Classroom Protocol

Regular attendance and class participation is expected and encouraged. Please come to class prepared with the right materials. From time to time we will discuss controversial subjects so I expect everyone to treat one another with respect and courtesy. If you have a question, please do not speak out of turn, but raise your hand. I do not allow audio or video recording devices in class. Laptops/tablets are allowed in class for the purposes of notetaking **only**.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grades are determined by class participation, homework, quizzes, exams and writing assignments. There will be weekly homework assignments and we will devote a portion of each class to going over problems found in the assignments. The problems encountered in the homework will be virtually identical to the problems found in the quizzes and exams. Hence, it is in your best interest to keep up with the assignments.

There will be four 15-minute quizzes and two 45-minute exams. The lowest quiz score out of the four will be thrown out, but you must take all four quizzes. Problems found in quizzes and exams will reflect those found in the homework. I encourage you to answer every question because partial credit will be given for attempted answers. Answers left blank will be given zero credit.

Grading Scale

Class Participation: 5%
 Homework: 10%
 Quizzes: 15%
 Exams: 20%
 Essay 1: 15%
 Essay 2: 15%
 Final Exam: 20%

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|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| A+ | 98-100% | B+ | 87-89% | C+ | 77-79% | D+ | 67-69% |
| A | 93-97% | B | 83-86% | C | 73-76% | D | 60-66% |
| A- | 90-92% | B- | 82-82% | C- | 70-72% | F | 0-59% |

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar webpage located at www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating and plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

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. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the

Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

A Word from the Academic Senate:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit each week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

**Phil. 57: Logic and Critical Reasoning, Sec. 1
Fall 2015 Course Schedule**

(Note: the schedule is subject to change with fair notice, as given during lecture)

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadline |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Aug. 24, 26 | 1.1-1.4 Introductory remarks; syllabus. Basic Concepts; Arguments and Nonarguments; Inductive/Deductive; Validity, Soundness, Strength, Cogency |
| 2 | Aug. 31 Sep. 2 | 1.5-1.6 Argument Forms and Extended Arguments Quiz 1: Sep. 2 |
| 3 | Sep. 7, 9 | 2.1-2.3 No class on Sep. 7; Meaning and Definition I |
| 4 | Sep. 14, 16 | 2.4-2.5 Meaning and Definition II Exam 1: Sep. 16 |
| 5 | Sep. 21, 23 | 3.1-3.3 Formal Fallacies I |
| 6 | Sep. 28, 30 | 3.4-3.5 Formal Fallacies II Essay 1 Draft: Sep 28 Quiz 2: Sep 30 |
| 7 | Oct. 5, 7 | 4.1-4.3 Categorical Propositions I; Square of Opposition |
| 8 | Oct. 12, 14 | 4.4-4.5 Categorical Propositions II; Venn Diagrams; Square of Opposition |

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| | | Revised Essay 1: Oct 14 |
| 9 | Oct. 19, 21 | 4.5-4.7; 5.1-5.3 Categorical Logic and Syllogisms I |
| 10 | Oct. 26, 28 | 5.4-5.6 Categorical Logic and Syllogisms II Quiz 2: Oct. 28 |
| 11 | Nov. 2, 4 | 5.4-5.6 Categorical Logic and Syllogisms II Exam 2: Nov. 4 |
| 12 | Nov. 9, 11 | 6.1-6.2 Propositional Logic I; No class Nov. 11 |
| 13 | Nov. 16, 18 | 6.3-6.6 Propositional Logic II Essay 2 Draft: Nov. 18 |
| 14 | Nov. 23, 25 | 7.1-7.2 Natural Deduction I |
| 15 | Nov. 30 Dec. 2 | 7.3-7.4 Natural Deduction II Essay 2 Revised: Dec. 2 |
| 16 | Dec. 7 | Review for Final Exam |
| Final Exam | Dec. 16 | 7:15 to 9:30am in DMH 149B |