

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
PHIL57 Section 7
LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING
Fall 2015
(2015-8-26 format)

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Bo Mou
Office Location:	Faculty Office Building (FOB) 225
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Email:	bo.mou@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 15:30-16:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesday: 13:30-14:45
Classroom:	BBC 125
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	<i>This course fulfills the following core general education requirement: Critical Thinking and Writing (A3)</i>

Course Format

In-classroom sessions with the aid of online resources via Canvas when in need. During a regular in-classroom session, instead of repeating everything that appears in the textbook, I will focus on: <1> emphasizing some major points, <2> explaining some difficulty points, and <3> answering your questions (if any) to be raised on the scene of the session. SJSU currently uses the online learning software “Canvas” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus>. Depending on need and situation, we might also use regular email accounts as a means for communication.

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as syllabus, supplementary readings, supplementary lecture notes or handouts, etc. can be found at the class website (via Canvas) in SJSU eCampus: <http://www.sjsu.edu/eCampus>. The instructor’s personal academic website is <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/bmou/>

Course Description

This course gives an introduction to the following contents: basic concepts of logic; goals and standards of both deductive and non-deductive (inductive and other types of) reasoning; techniques of argument analysis and assessment; evaluation of evidence; fallacies. To help students look at the relation among various types of reasoning, a methodological framework is introduced; we thus also take a cross-tradition comparative-engagement approach to some relevant logical and methodological resources from different traditions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course in GE Area A3, students will be able to:

1. Classify, analyze, and critique various forms of argument;
2. Identify various fallacies of inductive and deductive reasoning;
3. Apply methods of logic and critical reasoning to the evaluation of arguments.

Required Textbooks

Merrilee H. Salmon (2013), *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (6th edition) (Wadsworth) [[ILC](#)]

Course Requirements and Assignments

- (1) Homework credit: 20% (ten homework assignments; 2 points for each)
- (2) Midterm Exam: 20% (10/21)
- (3) Two short papers: 15% + 15% = 30% (there will be draft and, after critique, revised versions due).
- (4) Final Exam: 30% (12/16)

Grading Policy

Normal grade rules. The final grade will be based on a computation of all of your grades and on the following scale:

A+ (98 - 100); B+ (87 - 89); C+ (77 - 79); D+ (67 - 69); F = 0 - 59.
A (94 - 97); B (84 - 86); C (74 - 76); D (64 - 66);
A- (93 - 90); B- (80 - 83); C- (70 - 73); D- (60 - 63);

Completing this GE Area with a grade of C or better is a graduation requirement.

Writings

The SJSU policy regarding student written work in GE Area A3 is as follows: “Writing assignments give students repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Assignments should include timed (or “in class”) writing as well as revised writing (out of class).” The 6000 word writing requirement will be satisfied in Philosophy 57 this way: 2000 will come from the final draft of two writing assignments (each 3-4 typewritten double-spaced full pages with 1 inch margin and font size 12—averagely at least 335 words each page). An additional 2000 will come from rewrites of earlier drafts of those two writing assignments. The final 2000 will come from answer to the essay question in exam and the last two homework assignments.

Homework

You will be assigned ten sets of homework exercises. The homework exercises for the chapters to be covered in this class (#1-#8 homework assignments) are selected from those “even-numbered” exercises whose answers are provided at the back of the book: you are expected to give (write down) brief explanations of why or how to arrive at the answers, instead of just copying the given answers there; your make submission of the homework assignments in the dropboxes at the class website (for each of complete submissions, you will get its credit points). You are encouraged (but not required) to also do (think about) those “odd-numbered” exercises for the covered chapters by yourself (without giving your answers in the homework submissions); some of the exam questions would be selected from those “odd-numbered” exercises. A homework assignment is made on Wednesday and due at the midnight (23:59) of the coming Sunday (their submissions are made in the dropboxes at the class website).

Exam

The exams will combine true-false, multiple choice and essay questions. The instructor will supply a study guide at least one week before the exam.

Late work

Except for the exams, late work will be accepted but demoted by 10% per day late.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

PHIL57 Section 7 “LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING” / Fall 2015 COURSE SCHEDULE (2015-8-26 format)

Date	Contents	Reading Assignments
Part 1: Introduction and Preliminaries		
Aug. 24 (M)	Introduction / Methodological Issues	None
Aug. 26 (W)	Introduction to argument	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 1
Aug. 31 (M)	Paying special attention to the language of argument	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 2
Sept. 2 (W)	Deductive and inductive arguments, fallacies #1 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 3
Part 2: Non-Deductive Reasoning (Inductive Arguments and Others)		
Sept. 9 (W) [9/7 Monday: campus closed]	Inductive generalization (argument based on samples)	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section IV
Sept. 14 (M)	Statistical syllogisms	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section II
Sept. 16 (W)	Arguments from (by) analogy #2 Homework assignment Short paper #1 assigned	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section III
Sept. 21 (M)	Arguments from authority	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section II, 4
Sept. 23 (W)	Causal arguments #3 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 5, Sections I - IV
Sept. 28 (M)	Hume’s analysis of causation Confirmation of hypotheses	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 5, Sections V and VI <u>ILC</u> : Ch. 7
Sept. 30 (W)	Arguments from (fundamental) values; Arguments from our intuitive understandings #4 Homework assignment Draft short paper #1 due	Supplementary handout
Oct. 5 (M)	Review for non-deductive arguments	<u>ILC</u> : those chapters/sections that have been read

Part 3: Deductive Reasoning		
Oct. 7 (W)	Sentential logic (1): introduction; conditional sentences #5 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 8, Sections I-III
Oct. 12 (M)	Sentential logic (2): two conditional argument forms; fallacies with conditional forms Revised short paper #1 due	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 8, Sections IV-V
Oct. 14 (W)	Sentential logic (3): additional forms of sentential arguments; symbolizing connectives and English sentence #6 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 8, Sections VI-XI
Oct. 19 (M)	Review for sentential logic	<u>ILC</u> : those chapters/sections that have been read
Oct. 21 (W)	Midterm Exam	
Oct. 26 (M)	Categorical syllogism (1) Short paper #2 assigned	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 9, Sections I-III
Oct. 28 (W)	Categorical syllogism (2) #7 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 9, Sections IV-IX
Nov. 2 (M)	Predicate logic (1): relational arguments	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 10, Sections I-III
Nov. 4 (W)	Predicate logic (2): quantifications #8 Homework assignment Draft short paper #2 due	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 10, Sections IV and V
Nov. 9 (M)	Review for deductive arguments	<u>ILC</u> : those chapters/sections that have been read
Nov. 11 (W)	No class (Veteran's Day)	
Part 4: Comparative Engagement: Western and non-Western traditions		
Nov. 16 (M)	Socrates' and Confucius' distinct perspectives (1)	Supplementary readings
Nov. 18 (W)	Socrates' and Confucius' distinct perspectives (2) #9 Homework assignment	Supplementary readings
Nov. 23 (M)	Two basic laws of logic (1): Aristotle's approach	Supplementary readings
Nov. 25 (W)	Two basic laws of logic (2): Gongsun Long's "White-Horse-Not-Horse" thesis #10 Homework assignment	Supplementary readings
Nov. 30 (M)	Mohist logical thought and contemporary logical thought (1) Revised short paper #2 due	Supplementary readings
Dec. 2 (W)	Mohist logical thought and contemporary logical thought (2)	Supplementary readings
Dec. 7 (M)	Review for final Exam	
Dec. 16 (W)	Final Examination	12:15 – 14:30
Note: The above schedule is for guidance only and may change in the event of extenuating circumstances.		