

**San José State University**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**PHIL57 Section 6**  
**LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING**  
**Fall 2018**

**Syllabus & Schedule**  
(2018-8-23 modified version)

**Instructor:** Dr. Bo Mou [<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/bmou/>]  
**Office Location:** Faculty Office Building (FOB) 225  
**Telephone:** (O): 408-924-4513  
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**Class Days/Time:** Friday, 9:30 am– 12:15 pm  
**Classroom:** DMH 208  
**Office Hours:** Friday, 13:00 – 15:30 or by appointment.  
**Class Website Address:** [www.sjsu.edu/ecampus](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus) (via “Canvas”)

**GE/SJSU Studies Category:** *This course fulfills the following core general education requirement: Critical Thinking and Writing (A3)*

### 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 think about how to look at the relations between various types of reasoning and between distinct premises in 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.

### Required Textbooks

Merrilee H. Salmon (2013), *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (6th edition) (Wadsworth) [[ILC](#)] [ISBN: 1133049753 / Available at the Campus Bookstore.]

### 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.

### 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.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

- (1) Homework credit: 20% (ten homework assignments; 2 points for each)
- (2) Midterm Exam: 20% (10/29, Monday)
- (3) Two short papers: 15% + 15% = 30% (there will be the first, and, after feedback, revised final versions due).
- (4) Final Exam: 30% (12/17, Monday)

### Grading Policy

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

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	<b>C = 76-73%</b>	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

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 the answer to the essay questions 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 **Friday** and due at the midnight (23:59) of the **coming Monday** (their submissions are made in the dropboxes at the class website).

### Exam

The exams will combine true-false and/or multiple-choice questions and essay questions. The instructor will supply a study guide around one week before the exam.

**Late work**

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

**University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

**PHIL57 “LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING”****Section 6 / Fall 2018****COURSE SCHEDULE**

(2018-8-23 version)

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
Part 1: Introduction and Preliminaries		
8/24 (F)	Introduction (1): Intro to the class; methodological Issues	
8/31 (F)	Introduction (2): Intro to argument; About Language of argument	<u>ILC</u> : Chs. 1 and 2
9/7 (F)	Deductive and inductive arguments, fallacies #1 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 3
Part 2: Non-Deductive Reasoning (Inductive Arguments and Others)		
9/14 (F)	Inductive generalization (argument based on samples); Statistical syllogisms	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section IV, Section II
9/21 (F)	Arguments from (by) analogy; Arguments from authority #2 Homework assignment Short paper #1 assigned	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section III; Section II, 4
9/28 (F)	Causal arguments Hume's analysis of causation <i>Confirmation of hypotheses</i> #3 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 5, Sections I – VI Ch. 7
10/5 (F)	Arguments from (fundamental) values; Arguments from our intuitive understandings #4 Homework assignment Draft short paper #1 due	Supplementary handout

Part 3: Deductive Reasoning		
10/12 (F)	Sentential logic (1): introduction; conditional sentences; two conditional argument forms; fallacies with conditional forms #5 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 8, Sections I-V
10/19 (F)	Sentential logic (2): additional forms of sentential arguments; symbolizing connectives and English sentence #6 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 8, Sections VI-XI
Oct. 22 (M)	Revised short paper #1 due	
10/26 (F)	Review for Midterm Exam	
<b>Oct. 29 (F)</b>	<b>19:00-21:00: Midterm Exam</b>	
11/2 (F)	Categorical syllogism Short paper #2 assigned #7 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 9, Sections I-IX
11/9 (F)	Predicate logic: relational arguments; quantifications #8 Homework assignment Draft short paper #2 due	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 10, Sections I-V
Part 4: Cross-tradition Engagement in Logical Thought		
11/16 (F)	Socrates' and Confucius' distinct perspective ways of thinking #9 Homework assignment	Supplementary readings
Thanksgiving Day 11/23 (F)	As the Thursday (11/22) of this week is Thanksgiving Day, there is no online session this week; the student can use this week to work on and finish the first version of the term paper	
Nov. 26 (M)	Revised short paper #2 due	
11/30 (F)	Laws of logic (1): Aristotle's approach and Gongsun Long's approach #10 Homework assignment	Supplementary readings
12/7 (F)	Laws of logic (2): Mohist logical thought and contemporary logical thought Review for final Exam	Supplementary readings
<b>Dec. 17 (M)</b>	<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>12:15 – 14:30</b>
<p>Note: The above schedule is for guidance only and may change in the event of extenuating circumstances.</p>		