

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
PHIL57 Section 80 (Online Class)
LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING
Fall 2018

Syllabus & Schedule
(2018-2-23 tentative version)

Instructor: Dr. Bo Mou [<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/bmou/>]
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Office Hours: Due to the full-online format of this class, there are no formal “in-office-location” office hours; you can raise your questions anytime online at the relevant “discussion” sections (I will reply whenever I login in at the class website). However, in case you do need a face-to-face meeting, you can come by at my office during 13:30-15:30, Tuesday (unless notified otherwise), or by appointment.
Class Days/Time: Regular intensive online sessions to be held on **Fridays** (when the instructor’s lecture notes for the weeks are to be posted)
Class Website Address: www.sjsu.edu/ecampus (via “Canvas” site where the class website is located)

Prerequisite:

Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing. For those who begin continuous enrollment at a CCC or a CSU in Fall 2005 or later, completion of a 100W course is required.

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

All the regular class communications and required class activities will be made fully online (via the class website and/or the email) without requiring in-person meetings at physical locations on SJSU campus. SJSU currently uses the online class-learning software “Canvas” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus> where the class website is located. Depending on need and situation (especially in case there would be technical difficulties with “Canvas”), we might also use regular email accounts as a back-up means for communication.

With consideration of the students’ variety of timeline availability, each of the indicated regular online session weeks is to be carried out intensively on its **Friday** (“intensive-learning day” for short) in this way:

- The instructor’s lecture note is to be posted at Canvas before 9 am on that intensive-learning day;
- You arrange your own timeline(s) sensitive to your own schedules on that day (anytime before 9 pm) to do the following intensive learning/studying things: <1> carefully read the lecture note and understand /think about its addressed points and explanations/argumentations (via either its online version or its downloaded hardcopy), <2> raise your relevant questions (if any) about the content of the reading assignment (and about the previous homework assignment), and <3> discuss some of your classmates’ questions as far as you can [the foregoing <2> and <3> constitute your participation in discussion and would count in your class participation credit points];
- The instructor is to reply your questions (if any) when he is online (is to login in the class website multiple times on that day between 9 am and 9 pm).

In case you cannot make it to participate in an online session on its date, you can check its content later as the contents of all the posted online lecture-note presentations and discussions are to be kept at the class website until the end of the class; you can still post your question(s)/participate in the discussion on the class content of that date’s online session any time [or any time within one week before the date (**next Friday**) when the next online session is held, if your participation via the foregoing <2> and <3> is intended to be counted in your class participation credit].

Note: During one regular online session, instead of repeating everything that appears in the class handout(s) and the readings for the contents of that session, my posted lecture note and my replies to your raised questions (if any) on the content of that session will focus on: <1> emphasizing major points/argumentation lines, <2> explaining difficulty points, and <3> being sensitive to the specific contents of your raised questions (if any).

Course Requirements and Assignments

(1) Online Class Discussion Participation: 10%

Participation in discussions in 10 regular intensive sessions (among the total 14 intensive sessions, except of the first one) (1 point for each): (1) raising reflective questions that show your carefully <1> reading the class textbooks and pre-session reading assignments and/or <2> thinking about the issues under examination; and/or (2) contributing to discussions on classmates’ reflective questions.

(2) Homework credit: 20% (ten homework assignments; 2 points for each)

(3) Midterm Exam: 20% (10/25)

- (4) Two short papers: 15% + 15% = 30% (there will be the first, and, after feedback, revised final versions due).
- (5) Final Exam: 20% (12/13)

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%	C = 76-73%	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 your ten class-discussion contribution writings 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 multiple choice 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

**PHIL57 “LOGIC & CRITICAL REASONING”
Section 80 (Online Class) / Fall 2018**

COURSE SCHEDULE

(2018-2-23 tentative version)

Timeline Note: the lecture note for each regular weekly session is to be posted on Friday (intensive online-learning day)	Contents	Reading Assignments (to be completed before the Thursday intensive session)
Part 1: Introduction and Preliminaries		
Intensive Session 8/24 (F)	Introduction (1): Intro to the class; methodological Issues	
Intensive Session 8/31 (F)	Introduction (2): Intro to argument; About Language of argument	<u>ILC</u> : Chs. 1 and 2
Intensive Session 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)		
Intensive Session 9/14 (F)	Inductive generalization (argument based on samples); Statistical syllogisms	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 4, Section IV, Section II
Intensive Session 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
Intensive Session 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
Intensive Session 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		
Intensive Session 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

Intensive Session 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	
Intensive Session 10/26 (F)	Review for Midterm Exam Oct. 25 (R), 19:00-21:00: Midterm Exam	
Intensive Session 11/2 (F)	Categorical syllogism Short paper #2 assigned #7 Homework assignment	<u>ILC</u> : Ch. 9, Sections I-IX
Intensive Session 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		
Intensive Session 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	
Intensive Session 11/30 (F)	Laws of logic (1): Aristotle's approach and Gongsun Long's approach #10 Homework assignment	Supplementary readings
Intensive Session 12/7 (F)	Laws of logic (2): Mohist logical thought and contemporary logical thought Review for final Exam	Supplementary readings
Dec. 13 (R)	Final Examination	19:45 – 22:00
<p>Note: The above schedule is for guidance only and may change in the event of extenuating circumstances.</p>		