

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
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The quarter used (F2003, W2003, SP2004, SU2004)

Course number & Name: PHI120 Logic

Credit hours: 4 quarter hours

Method of Delivery: Classroom

Course Description:

A study of the principles of creative and critical thinking and the methods used to arrive at objective conclusions, definition and symbolism in analyzing arguments, criteria for evaluating the validity of discussions, truth functions, laws of nature, explanations, and moral arguments. As a result of this study, students will be able to construct logical and valid arguments, recognize fallacious arguments, and structure information into useful forms.

Text(s) & Manual(s): NO BOOK LISTED according to bookstore (11/19/03)

Author(s):

Publisher:

Topics:

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding of the basic principles and importance of logical thought.
2. Utilize elements of a student's culture, experience, and frame of reference in logical thought and persuasive arguments.
3. Utilize the laws of critical thinking and decision making.
4. Utilize logical thought process in solving everyday problems.

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Matters related to academic honesty or contrary action such as cheating, plagiarism, or giving unauthorized help on examinations or assignments may result in an instructor giving a student a failing grade for that academic effort and also recommending the student be given a failing grade for the course and/or be subject to dismissal.

Plagiarism is using another person's words without giving credit to the author. Original speeches, publications, and artistic creations are sources for research. If you use the author's words in your papers or assignments, you must acknowledge the source. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of the college and is grounds for failing the course. If repeated, plagiarism may result in suspension from the college.

Assessment Portfolio Reminder:

Each student is required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio. Use the "Evidence for Success" list for your program, which is already in the portfolio, and instructions from the instructor to determine the assignment(s) that should be in the assessment portfolio

Instructor Information:

Participation Requirements:

As partial fulfillment of the requirements of PHI120, you must submit an argumentative essay on a topic of your choice. It is expected that you will exhibit originality, be articulate and convincing, and conform to the precepts of logical thought. Although no minimum or maximum length is required, it would be wise to bear in mind that a partial or incomplete logical argument is no logical argument at all. To assist in the planning and execution of this assignment, your attention is called to Chapters 32 and 33 of your text.

Policies and Procedures:

It is the policy of Midstate College that any student who has missed 10% of the scheduled class meetings or has been absent for three or more consecutive class meetings is "excessively absent." The names of all students excessively absent will be referred to the Dean of the College for action on a weekly basis

All examinations are announced in advance. Additionally, the class syllabus indicated the scheduling of exams. All students are expected to be present for exams at the scheduled time and place. Makeup exams will be allowed only in the direst of circumstances (sever illness, family emergency). Makeup exams will be allowed only when, in the opinion of the instructor, such absence was absolutely unavoidable. Exams not taken are counted as a zero in grade compilation. Therefore, students should make every effort to be present for exams.

From time to time in-class assignments and quality checks will be given. Assignments such as these cannot be made up regardless of the reason for absence except for those who were on field trips or other school/department sponsored evolutions. However, during the course of the term extra credit questions are added to some assignments to allow some "make-up" type points and one assignment is dropped in grade compilation.

Any homework assignment missed due to unavoidable reasons must be turned in on the first day of the student's return to school. They will not be accepted after that time unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor. Additionally, no homework assignment will be accepted after that assignment has been graded and returned to the rest of the class. All homework assignments are due at the beginning of class period on the due date.

Term projects and reports will be assigned well in advance of the date due. They are due at the beginning of the class period of the date due. Reports submitted late will be penalized 10% of the total value of the assignment per day that they are late and will not be accepted at all after the third day. They may be submitted early at any time prior to the due date. Absence on the date due will not be an acceptable reason for late submission. Those who wait until the last day assume the risk of such action.

In the vast majority of the cases there will be no exceptions. If you feel your circumstances are mitigating, I will certainly grant your right to be heard.

Methods of evaluating student performance:

Attendance, Participation – 10%

Quizzes and other Related Learnings – 70%

Final Exam – 20%

Examination Information:

There will be three examinations worth 100 points each and one final examination worth 200 points. No student will receive a passing grade without participating in the final examination.

Instructor’s Grading Scale:

Your course grade will be calculated on a cumulative point basis. Below is a breakdown as well as a column for you to enter your points for each item. It is hoped that this will enable you to know at any given time approximately where you stand. In addition to this objective basis, I will use my subjective evaluation of your effort and performance in adjusting grades for those students who fall on the border line between two grades. I, of course, do reserve the right to alter this breakdown should I feel that conditions warrant.

WARNING: Regardless of total point accumulation, no student will receive a passing grade without participating in the final examination.

	Possible Points	Points Received
Quality Checks, in-class assignments, homework*	100	
Examination #1	100	
Examination #2	100	
Examination #3	100	
Argumentative Essay	100	
Final Examination	200	
Total	700	

*In arriving at the 100 points that will constitute this item an interpercentile range procedure will be used. All assignments and quality checks will be worth 10 points each (plus, in some cases, extra credit). There may, however, be more than ten such items during the course, If eleven such assignments are given, your lowest grade will be eliminated and the remaining ten totaled.

The following scale applied to your total point accumulation will determine your grade:

630 – 700 points	A
560 – 629 points	B
480 – 559 points	C
420 – 489 points	D
0 – 419 points	F

Class Schedule:

Week Two	Chapters 3-5	Structure and evaluation of the hypothetical syllogism. Developing hypotheses Hypotheses-criteria and evaluation.
Week Three	Chapters 6-7	Evaluating the relevance and reliability of evidence. Calculating the probability of dependent and independent events. Exam: Ch 1-7
Week Four	Chapters 8-10	How to logically arrive at and test generalizations. Statistical display of data – measures of dispersion and central tendency. Evaluation of statistical descriptors.
Week Five	Chapters 11- 12, 14	The nature of causal relationships – necessary, sufficient, and necessary and sufficient. Testing causal relationships – types of evidence. Proper construction of definitions.
Week Six	Chapters 15-16	Forms of categorical propositions. Conversion and obversion of categorical propositions Exam: Ch 8-12, 14-16
Week Seven	Chapters 17-19	Structure of categorical syllogisms. Fallacies of construction. Interpretation and construction of categorical syllogisms. Structure of alternative and disjunctive syllogisms.
Week Eight	Chapter 20	Chain arguments, dilemmas and other complex syllogisms.
Week Nine	Chapter 21-22, 24	Fallacies in improper arguments and syllogisms. Irrelevance related to argument.
Week Ten	Chapter 25	Aids in creative thinking. Exam: Ch 17-22, 24, 25
Week Eleven		Comprehensive Final Exam

The Argumentative Essay – Evaluation

Following is a breakdown of the manner in which your essay will be evaluated. Include this sheet as the last page of your essay so that it may be used for grading purposes. Failure to include this sheet will result in a five point penalty.

Item	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Proper form: typed on 8.5 x 11 paper, proper margins, title page, etc.	Mandatory	
Documentation: footnotes, bibliography, textual references.	10	
Topic selection: appropriateness and originality	5	
Grammar, construction and professional appearance	25	
Quality of argument: Logical, Thorough and complete, Originality	60	
Total	100	