

**Clarion University - Venango Campus**  
Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Logic & Inquiry  
**Session/Year:** Spring 2010  
**Course Number:** PHIL 111-51

**Instructor:** Diane Bowser, Ph.D.  
**Instructor Availability Outside of Class:**  
**E-Mail:** [dbowser@clarion.edu](mailto:dbowser@clarion.edu)  
**Web Site:** <http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/logic/index.htm>  
**Phone:** HOME OFFICE: [10:00 AM – 10:00 PM ONLY] 724-613-2727

**Course Description:**

Philosophy, literally "friend of wisdom", is a two-fold activity. Initially we think of the "reflective" discipline that attempts to address life's big questions about our world, and ourselves but there is also a "doing" component concerned with developing the ability to think critically and evaluate various responses to philosophical problems. This course focuses on the "doing" aspect, encouraging students to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate a wide variety of information.

"Logic is the study of the methods and principles used to distinguish good (correct) from bad (incorrect) reasoning." (Copi, 2) Since life in the "information age" of the 21st century demands that we sort through large quantities of data, some valuable - some worthless, it is necessary to acquire the critical thinking skills allowing us to easily distinguish the quality of information coming through various media channels (TV, radio, Internet, stock quotes, financial reports, proposals, grants, etc...) Logic teaches rudimentary reasoning skills that will help you refine your decision-making and information-sorting skills. This class requires at least two hours of study for every one hour spent in the classroom. Students will be expected to attend regularly and participate in class discussions.

**Course Length:** 15 Weeks

**Contact Hours:** 45 Hours

**Credits Value:** 3

**Course Competencies:**

1. Students will master formal language skills.
2. Students will learn how to recognize and evaluate arguments.
3. Students will learn to construct clear, effective arguments.
4. Students will develop the ability to analyze the linguistic structure of statements to derive implications.
5. Students will demonstrate increased problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
6. In order to solve problems consistently, students will develop creative strategies for reasoning through complex arguments.
7. Students will be able to focus their attention on the requirement for reasons or evidence necessary to support sound views.
8. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply the tools of critical thinking to everyday situations. These skills will enhance a student's ability:
  - ◆ to interview, convincing employers that he/she is "right" for various positions,
  - ◆ to sell a product or piece of work,
  - ◆ to bid successfully for projects, and
  - ◆ to improve grant writing, and project presentation skills.

**Recommended Background:** 1 College Level Math Course (This is not a required prerequisite.)

**Required Text:** Hurley, Patrick J. [A Concise Introduction to Logic](#), Tenth Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2008 (ISBN – 0495503835)

1. **Best value on text:** <http://ichapters.com> ; this site will give you Chapter 1 for free and you must buy Chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 for \$7.99/each. Total cost is around \$32.00 ! **Caution:** You are buying encrypted PDFs and should only use/download these files on your computer or a computer to which you regularly have access. You are expected to bring the PDFs to class either digitally or hardcopy for each session!
2. **Chegg.com** also rents copies of texts for a reasonable fee if you like having the hard copy. Numerous used text sites are also listed on our class web site.
3. **It is also OK to buy the 9<sup>th</sup> edition to save money (if you can find it used online). However, be aware that some homework problems will be different and it is your responsibility to cross-check these problems**

with the 10<sup>th</sup> edition in the library.

**Technology Needed:** Our class will be supplemented by a web site (<http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/logic/index.htm>) where you will find a copy of this syllabus, weekly class news, updates on assignments/quizzes, additional resources to help you in your quest to master logic. In addition, you may also e-mail me to receive a quick response within 24-36 hours. You will be expected to access the web site regularly to receive class-related information.

#### **Student Evaluation/Methods of Assessment:**

Assessment of your performance will be based on quizzes, midterm and final tests. Logic is a “problem solving” subject so your ability to apply the argument evaluation techniques demonstrated in class will be critical to receive a passing grade.

#### **Grading Weight Distribution:**

<b>Attendance &amp; Participation</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Quizzes (4 @ 15% each)</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b><u>15%</u></b>
	<b>100%</b>

#### **Class Policies:**

1. Learning can only occur when there is no fear or negativity. Thus, students are expected to show respect, tolerance and compassion for everyone in the room. Disruptive behavior and foul language will not be tolerated; students who engage in these behaviors will be asked to leave class.
2. ***NO MAKEUP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN ADVANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. IF YOU ARE ABSENT ON A TEST DATE, YOU WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO FOR THAT PART OF YOUR GRADE. ANYONE CAUGHT CHEATING ON AN EXAM WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE.***
3. ***Students who miss 4 classes (25% of all meetings) will receive a failing grade for the course regardless of the reason(s) for the absences.<sup>1</sup> Students are responsible for keeping up with class assignments when absent.***
4. **All emails sent to [dbowser@clarion.edu](mailto:dbowser@clarion.edu) should include the following information in the subject line of the message in order to receive a reply: Last name - Clarion-Venango Logic – (the subject of your message)**

#### *Homework Assignments:*

5. **All homework assignments must be completed in a notebook before the beginning of class.** You may choose to write or type your assignments, but you must be ready to show your completed assignment at the beginning of class when attendance is taken. If you arrive late, your homework will not be accepted under any circumstances.
6. **WHEN ARE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS DUE?** Homework assignments are due at the beginning of each class during Weeks 2-14. The homework assignments will be comprised of problems assigned the previous week in response to feedback/lecture questions.
7. **You may not copy or cut and paste another student's homework.** Each student is responsible for doing his/her own homework assignment. Assignments turned in that are cut and paste copies or exact duplicates of another student's work will not receive credit. Assignments are considered cut and paste if they contain substantial segments that are duplicated from another student's homework. **For typewritten work, even if fonts and spacing are different, assignments that have the exact same content will be considered duplicates.** Neither assignment will receive credit regardless of who did the work.
8. Homework assignments should contain grammatically correct sentences and problem numbers as they appear in the text. Homework assignments that are done incorrectly (i.e., the instructions in the text and/or guidelines given in class are ignored) will not receive credit under any circumstances. You may not redo an assignment for credit if it is done incorrectly.
9. **You should try to do all of the problems assigned and describe any difficulties you may be having during completion of the assignment.** This will insure that I am aware of your concerns and allow me to respond. We will go over the homework assignment at the beginning of class after the notebook check. Please bring any questions you have regarding the current assignment so that I can address them before we move on.

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<sup>1</sup> Possible exceptions include documented hospitalization, military service, required work travel or extreme weather events that cause a majority of students/faculty to miss class.

10. **Late homework assignments: I will not accept late homework assignments for any reason.** Homework assignments not shown during the notebook check at the beginning of class will receive zero credit and negatively affect your final grade. If you are late or absent from class for any reason you cannot receive credit for that week's assignment unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance.
11. **THERE ARE NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS AVAILABLE IN THIS CLASS.** You are expected to turn in work regularly and study throughout the quarter. There will be no opportunities outside of regular assignments to "save" yourself if you find that you are not passing the course.
12. **You are responsible for saving a copy of all assignments and quizzes that have been graded and handed back.** If there is a discrepancy between your records and mine, you should be able to show me the assignment in question.
13. **You may use Logic Coach to help with homework.** Logic Coach can be downloaded free. There are links on our class web site under the home page and syllabus pages.

**Students with Disabilities:** It is Clarion University's policy not to discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this class, contact your Instructor and a School Counselor. Instructors should be notified during the first week of classes.

## Course Outline <sup>2</sup>

Week	Date	Material
1	1/21/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand out syllabus, introduce text, outline study of logic</li> <li>• Section 1.1 Arguments, Premises and Conclusions</li> <li>• Section 1.2 Recognizing Arguments</li> </ul>
2	1/28/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1.3 Deduction and Induction</li> <li>• Section 1.4 Validity, Truth &amp; Soundness, Strength, Cogency</li> </ul>
3	2/4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Section 1.5 Argument Forms: Proving Validity</a></li> <li>• Sections 4.1 &amp; 4.2 The Components of Categorical Propositions &amp; Quality, Quantity and Distribution</li> </ul>
4	2/11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 4.3 Venn Diagrams and the Modern Square of Opposition</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #1: Chapter 1</b></li> </ul>
5	2/18/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 4.4 Conversion, Obversion and Contraposition</li> <li>• Section 4.5 The Traditional Square of Opposition</li> </ul>
6	2/25/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 4.6 Venn Diagrams and the Traditional Standpoint</li> <li>• Section 4.7 Translating Ordinary Statements into Categorical Form</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> **NOTE:** The pace of class lectures will vary depending on the activity at hand. The above schedule is a flexible outline and will be updated on the class web site weekly.

7	3/4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review: Sections 4.6 &amp; 4.7</li> <li>• <b>Quiz #1: Chapter 4</b></li> <li>• Section 5.1 Standard Form, Mood and Figure</li> </ul>
8	3/18/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 5.2 Venn Diagrams</li> <li>• Section 5.3 Rules and Fallacies</li> <li>• <b>Review for Quiz #3</b></li> </ul>
9	3/25/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz #3: quiz focused on 5.1 – 5.3</b></li> <li>• Section 6.1 Symbols &amp; Translation</li> </ul>
10	4/1/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 6.2 Truth Functions</li> </ul>
11	4/8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 6.3 Truth Tables for Propositions</li> <li>• Section 6.4 Truth Tables for Arguments</li> </ul>
12	4/15/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 6.5 Indirect Truth Tables</li> <li>• Section 6.6 Argument Forms and Fallacies</li> </ul>
13	4/22/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quiz #4: Chapter 6</b></li> <li>• Section 3.1 Fallacies in General</li> <li>• Section 3.2 Fallacies of Relevance</li> </ul>
14	4/29/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 3.3 Fallacies of Weak Induction</li> <li>• Section 3.4 Fallacies of Presumption</li> <li>• Review for Final exam</li> </ul>
15	5/6/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FINAL EXAM: focus is on CH 6 and CH 3.</b></li> </ul>

**Learning Contract – Clarion Logic (PHIL-111-51)\_\_\_\_\_**

Semester/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (must be checked regularly) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional – only if you would prefer a call versus an e-mail)

The contract terms below ensure that students are aware of the expectations that guide grading for the above course. By signing this contract you are acknowledging awareness of your responsibilities for completing this course. If you decline to sign, the conditions and requirements noted below will still apply. No exceptions will be made to the terms and conditions set forth below and in the syllabus.

**TERMS:***Attendance:*

1. There is an attendance policy in effect for this course. If I miss 4 classes (25%), a failing grade will result regardless of coursework or the various reasons for my absences.
2. Attendance in class is required and I realize that I am responsible for all material covered in class even if I do not attend.

*Syllabus & Class Policies:*

1. I have read and understand the course syllabus and class policies regarding conduct, coursework, exams, requirements and use of electronic devices in class.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to regularly check the course web site(<http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/logic/>) and calendar on the syllabus for announcements (web site) and assignment due dates (syllabus).
3. I know that I am expected to have the text or PDFs in class to receive participation credit.

*Reading Assignments:*

1. This is an intermediate level philosophy class. Reading assignments are geared toward undergraduates performing at the college level. Hence, it is customary to have to re-read assignments one or two times to get the gist of the information contained therein. Depending on my skill level and degree of focus, it may take three readings of a particular assignment to achieve adequate comprehension of the material.
2. All reading assignments should be completed BEFORE the lecture covering the material.
3. It is my responsibility to ask questions in class if I do not understand the material.
4. It is my responsibility to contact the instructor and/or get a tutor if I am having difficulty comprehending the material or meeting course requirements.

*Exams:*

1. All policies regarding student conduct during exams have been reviewed.
2. I understand the no make-up policy.
3. If I am going to be out on the day of an exam, I know that I have to schedule an alternate test time at least one week in advance of the absence.
4. Material for the exams will come from homework assignments and lectures.

*Homework :*

1. I understand that all homework assignments must be completed in a notebook by the start of the first weekly class.
2. Late homework assignments will not be accepted for any reason.
3. I understand that my homework must be completed independently and that copying another person's homework will result in a zero grade.
4. Assignments should be completed for study purposes after the due date but they will NOT COUNT TOWARD MY GRADE.
5. I will receive a zero ("0") grade for all missing homework assignments.

I have read and agree to the terms above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_