

REASONING AND RATIONAL DECISION MAKING PHIL1250 Summer 2019

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CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Analyzing and evaluating arguments, basic logical framework, Aristotelian logic and beginning logic of sentences, fallacies, fundamentals of probability, decision theory, and argumentation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Is what that politician said supported by evidence? Should I buy a lottery ticket? Does the result of one coin toss tell me anything about the result of a future coin toss? Which of driving drunk or texting while driving is riskier behavior? Does this letter to the editor present adequate support for its conclusion? What does this sample tell us about the population as a whole? Should I check if this cannon is working by putting my head in the barrel?

We reason to conclusions all the time, even when we are unaware that is what we are doing. We draw conclusions and act upon our conclusions every few seconds of every day. When we are driving, we make inferences all the time based on the evidence available to us about signals, lights, pedestrians and other cars. We also, again often almost unconsciously, check other people's reasoning: Why does so and so believe that given the evidence? For example, why believe that your losing team is going to win this time?

In **PHIL1250, Reasoning and Rational Decision Making**, students develop a better understanding of human reasoning and learn to be better reasoners themselves. We will find that there are methods and approaches that, if applied correctly, allow us to reason better. We will learn to; distinguish valid from invalid arguments; use probability to assess the strength of evidence and the strength of predictions; and apply methods for improving our decision making. We will give answers to the following questions: What does it mean to reason well? What sorts of things can be reasonable (beliefs, hypotheses, decisions, etc.)? What are the standards of good reasoning? Do humans typically meet these standards?

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of this course and successful completion of all course requirements, the student will be able to do all of the following:

- explain the importance and relevance of the study of formal logic to human reasoning,
- compare and contrast philosophical accounts of what it means to reason well, showing how they relate to one another and pointing to their strengths and weaknesses,
- display an understanding and working knowledge of the formal logics that we cover,
- display an improved ability to construct, clarify, and evaluate

COURSE MATERIALS

A Concise Introduction to Logic, Thirteenth Edition. Patrick J. Hurley & Lori Watson. 2018. *Cengage Learning*. Boston

- ***WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND NOT BUYING THIS BOOK OUTRIGHT. WE RECCOMEND RENTING THIS BOOK THROUGH AMAZON OR CHEGG.***
 - ***WE DEFINITELY DO NOT RECCOMEND FINDING FREE CLANDESTINE VERSIONS ONLINE THAT ARE DEFINITELY THE 13th EDITION ON WEBSITES THAT AREN'T HARD TO GOOGLE SEARCH.***
 - Textbook RENTAL links: [[Amazon](#)] [[Chegg](#)]
 - You must have the 13th *edition* of this
- Additional Readings **AND VIDEO** on Canvas.

HYBRID MEDIA COURSE CANVAS <utah.instructure.com>

- This course is a hybrid online course. This means that we will not only be posting readings, assignments, quizzes, and tests through Canvas, but also *necessary* video lectures. These are for your benefit as well as ours. We want you all to be successful in this course and to walk away not only satisfied, but excited to do more philosophy going forward. To this end we will be supplementing reading with videos and vice versa. Please take note of the course schedule to see which videos are mandatory and which are supplementary

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE)

Online Assignments (quizzes) may be completed in two modules.

There is one quiz per week, but you can complete them anytime during the half of the course that they are open.

The first half of the course quizzes are open until the midterm (June 23rd).

The second half of the course quizzes are open until the Final (August 2nd).

There will be one short paper assignment due July 31st.

You **MUST** take the midterm between its assignment date on **(June 19 8am)** and its close date on **(June 23 11:59pm)**. And you **MUST** take the final exam on **(Friday August 2nd 8am-11:59pm)**

There are no exceptions to this, and you will only have 1 chance to take these tests within their allotted open periods.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

10 Weekly Quizzes

(30% of final grade)

This class is broken up into two unites. The first of which involves deductive logic and the second, inductive logic. Each week you will be assigned one quiz on the reading for that week. You may complete the quizzes anytime until the test date for that unit. So for the first 5 quizzes, you can complete them anytime from the date that they are posted until the midterm date, on June 23rd. Likewise, you may complete the second set of 5 quizzes anytime from the date that they are posted until the final date, on July 31st.

EXAMS

(60% of final grade)

Midterm (30% of the grade): Available – June 19th 8am – June 23rd 11:59pm

Final (30% of the grade): Available August 2nd 8am -11:59pm

SHORT PAPER

(10% of final grade): You will be asked to write a 3 page paper on ANY argument of your choosing. Your paper must reflect the skills and lessons learned in the course and use at least two academic sources. We will read drafts. More on the assignment when it is posted.

Assigned: June 24th

Due: July 31st @ 11:59p

GRADING POLICY

Final grades are assessed as follows:		Points translate to grades as follows:	
Attendance/participation (includes online participation)	20	93 and above	= A
Homework	40	90-92	= A-
Exams (Midterms 1 and 2: 10; Final: 20)	40	88-89	= B+
Total	100	83-87	= B
		80-82	= B-
		78-79	= C+
		73-77	= C
		70-72	= C-
		etc.	
		Below 60	= E

Course Schedule

Schedule Notes: (This is a living document & liable to change based on the needs of the class)

ALL readings are mandatory and the information in them is liable to be a part of your weekly quiz.

Readings are marked with “Chapter.Section#” As they appear in your textbook (e.g. 1.1)

Video Lectures will be posted to accompany *most* readings. Mandatory Video lectures contain material not in the reading that will be on your quizzes. **These are marked (#M) on the schedule.**

“M” means ‘mandatory,’ and the “#” corresponds to the lecture that it covers.

Week 1 May 13th-17th

Mon: Canvas Announcement

Tues: Ch.1 1.1 + Orientation Video (1M)

Wed: Ch.1 1.3

Thur: Ch.1 1.4

Frid: Ch.1 1.5

WEEKLY QUIZ 1 – Due Jun 23. (11:59p)

Week 2 May 20th-24th

Mon: Ch.4 4.1

Tues: Ch.4 4.2

Wed: Ch.4 4.3 + Video (2M)

Thur: Ch.4 4.3 + Video (2M)

Frid: Ch.4 4.7

WEEKLY QUIZ 2 – Due Jun 23. (11:59p)

Week 3 May 27th-31st

Mon: Ch.5 5.1

Tues: Ch.5 5.2 + Video (3M)

Wed: Ch.5 5.2 + Video (3M)

Thur: Ch.5 5.4

Frid: Ch.5 5.5

WEEKLY QUIZ 3 – Due Jun 23. (11:59p)

Week 4 June 3rd-7th

Mon: Ch.6 6.1 + Video (4M)

Tues: Ch.6 6.1 + Video (4M)

Wed: Ch.6 6.2 + Video (5M)

Thur: Ch.6 6.2 + Video (5M)

Frid: Ch.6 6.2 + Video (5M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 4 – Due Jun 23. (11:59p)

Week 5 June 10th-14th

Mon: Ch.6 6.3 + Video (6M)

Tues: Ch.6 6.3 + Video (6M)

Wed: Ch.6 6.3 + Video (6M)

Thur: Ch.6 6.4 + Video (7M)

Frid: Ch.6 6.4 + Video (7M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 5 – Due Jun 23. (11:59p)

Week 6 June 17th-21st

Mon: Ch.6 6.6 + Video (8M)

Tues: Ch.6 6.6 + Video (8M)

Wed: **MIDTERM OPEN 8am**

Thur: *Optional in class review 10am-12pm*

Frid: *Optional in class review 10am-12pm*

MIDTERM Open June 19th-23rd (11:59p)

ALL UNIT 1 QUIZZES DUE (June 23rd)

Week 7 June 24th-28th

Mon: Ch.11 11.1 + Video (9M)

Tues: Ch.11 11.1 + Video (10M)

Wed: Ch.11 11.1 + Video (11M)

Thur: Ch.11 11.1 + Video (12M)

Frid: Ch.11 11.1 + Video (13M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 6 – Due July 31st (11:59p)

SHORT PAPER ASSIGNED (June 24th)

Week 8 July 1st-5th

Mon: Ch11 11.2 (up to Bayes) + Video (14M)

Tues: Ch11 11.2 (up to Bayes) + Video (14M)

Wed: Ch11 11.2 (up to Bayes) + Video (15M)

Thur: Ch11 11.2 (up to Bayes) + Video (15M)

Frid: Ch11 11.2 (up to Bayes) + Video (16M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 7 – Due July 31st (11:59p)

Week 9 July 8th-12th

Mon: Ch11 11.2 (Bayes ONLY) +Video (17M)

Tues: Ch11 11.2 (Bayes ONLY) +Video (17M)

Wed: Ch11 11.2 (Bayes ONLY) +Video (18M)

Thur: Ch11 11.2 (Bayes ONLY) +Video (18M)

Frid: Ch11 11.2 (Bayes ONLY) +Video (19M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 8 – Due July 31st (11:59p)

Week 10 July 15th-19th

Mon: Video (20M)

Tues: Video (20M)

Wed: Video (21M)

Thur: Video (21M)

Frid: Video (22M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 9 – Due July 31st (11:59p)

Week 11 July 22nd-26th

Mon: Ch.3 3.1

Tues: Ch.3 3.2

Wed: Ch.3 3.3

Thur: Ch.3 3.4 + Video (23M)

Fri: Ch.3 3.4 + Video (23M)

WEEKLY QUIZ 10 – Due July 31st (11:59p)

ALL UNIT 2 QUIZZES DUE (July 31st)

PAPER DUE DATE: July 31st 11:59pm

You will have 1 month to write your paper. More information on this will be posted with the assignment when it comes.

FINAL EXAM: August 2nd 8am-11:59pm

THE FINAL EXAM IS ONLY OPEN ON THIS DAY BETWEEN THESE TIMES. YOU MUST TAKE IT THEN.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
2. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
3. ***Drop/Withdrawal.*** Last day to Add/Drop this class: Wednesday May 22nd. Last day to withdraw from this class: Friday June 21st
4. ***University Policies and Procedures:***
 400. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>(Links to an external site.)
 401. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>(Links to an external site.)
 402. ***General Education Statement:*** This course contributes to the University of Utah's Quantitative Reasoning requirement. For such courses, academic units must identify three essential learning outcomes (ELOs) that are relevant to university general education objectives. The ELOs for this course are: Inquiry and Analysis, Quantitative Literacy and Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning.

COURSE POLICIES

Canvas: All information about this class will be posted on Canvas. Please consult the class Canvas page regularly. Your Canvas activity for each class is logged automatically. The system detects every time you log on and records how long you visited for. Your participation through Canvas is measured this way.