

Syllabus Logic & Critical Thinking (Phil. 2641)

<i>Instructor:</i> Scott Brown, Ph.D. <i>Home Phone:</i> 404-735-7417 <i>E-mail:</i> scottbrown@scottbrown.tv <i>Web Page:</i> www.scottbrown.tv <i>Office Hours:</i> by appointment	<u>Fall Semester 2008, GPC</u> Section 360: Tu/Th: 5:30-6:45pm, Rm. SB-2210 Final Exam: Tues., Dec. 9 th , 5:45pm-7:45pm Section 160: M/W: 7:00pm-8:15pm, Rm. CE-11:50 Final Exam: Mon, Dec. 8 th , 9:00pm-10:00pm
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Text: *A Concise Introduction to Logic* (10th Edition), Patrick J. Hurley.

Graded Tasks: There will be four exams, including the Final. Each will count 25% of your grade for the course. The exams will consist of questions exactly like the ones in the exercises in the text. In fact, most of the questions will be copied directly from either the exercises or the explanatory sections of the text. The college policy on cheating applies, as does the college policy on attendance. I strongly advise you to come to all classes and to be prepared by having read the material in the text.

Plan of the Course: There will be four in-class examinations, including the Final, and each will count 25% of your grade. The material for each will take up approximately one quarter of the lecture time, and the tests will be as follows:

- 1st Test: Chapter 1;
- 2nd Test: Chapter 3, Sections of Chapter 4;
- 3rd Test: Chapter 6;
- 4th Test: Chapter 7.

Test dates will be announced in class, and it is your responsibility to know about them. However, they will occur about every fourth week. The Final Exam time and date are given above.

About the course topic: Logic is the study of argument, where "argument" is understood not in the sense of a dispute or disagreement, but as *giving of reasons for thinking something is true*. It isn't the art of repartee, of prevailing in persuasion, or appearing to outwit others; it is best practiced honestly. Instruction in logic ought to leave you better able both to advance arguments of your own and to respond intelligently to the arguments of others. It is one of the most general and useful of academic skills, and it ought to be useful to you whatever your academic major.

Study: I am very conscientious about not wasting your time. So, I try to select assignments that will give you the most intellectual return for study time invested. However, most of what you learn in this course is of such a practical nature as to require much practice, and I assume the traditional college standard of about two hours of study for every hour of class time. The material itself requires this. It amounts to about six hours/week of outside study for this course, and you can't expect to do well without investing that. You will have to acquire certain testable skills, which can only be acquired by study and practice. However, almost anyone who puts in the required study and practice can do this, and those who don't won't be able to guess at answers. It is all elementary, which means it is like learning a new language; there's not much you could do to get ready for it before you took this course. But, please keep in mind that regular and adequate study is required!