

Syllabus

Logic & Critical Thinking (Phil. 2020)

<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 2011, GPC-Clarkston Campus</u> Section 101: Tu/Thur, 8:30am-9:45am, Rm. CE-2120 Final Exam: Thursday, May 5 th , 8:30am-10:30am Section 161: MW 7:30pm-8:45pm, Rm. CE-2120 Final Exam: Monday, December 12th, 7:00pm-9:00pm
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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 special interests.

Study: You'll probably need to study about six hours/week for this class, beyond the 3 hours/week you spend in class. If you can't do this, you can't expect to just wing it; so, don't try! Most of the material is of a very practical nature, requiring much practice. I.e., if you think you can just guess at it or get by on your natural intelligence, you might as well be guessing how to play the piano or speak German. There are no prerequisites for it, which is to say there's nothing you could have done to be ready for it. On the other hand, nearly any normal college student can learn it given adequate study, which means devoting adequate and focused time-on-task. It works best if you come to class prepared rather than waiting on hearing me talk about it before you get started. The skills required are also somewhat cumulative; so, don't get behind!