

PHIL 205 Logic

Objective: The purpose of this syllabus is to guide the participant in the requirements, demands, logistics and expectations of this course.

Getting Help:

To receive technical assistance on issues related to WebCT contact:

Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk
ES 102
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(719) 587-7371
ascwebct@adams.edu

Your Instructor

Instructor: George Backen
E-mail: gjbacken@adams.edu
Phone:1 719.587.720
Fax: 719.587.7176
Address: Adams State College
History, Government and Philosophy
Alamosa, CO 81102

Welcome to PHIL 205: Logic

My name is Dr. George Backen, and I'm delighted that you've decided to study the logic with me. Logic is the science of evaluating arguments, and arguments are meant to persuade. Arguments persuade by providing premises that support a conclusion. That is, premises give good reasons for you to accept that the conclusion is true. Consider that throughout your days, you are surrounded by arguments; others attempting to persuade you and you attempting to persuade others. So this course has clear applications, for in this course you will develop your ability to evaluate the quality of arguments and to construct more persuasive arguments. So, from this course you will be better equipped to persuade others and reject poor arguments that others present to you.

I ask only one thing: Please use your new found power of persuasion for good and not for evil.

The text for this course is Patrick Hurley's *A Concise Introduction to Logic*. As of this writing, the newest edition is the 10th. Please feel free to purchase the 9th edition, since you should be able to find it at an affordable price either from Adams State College's bookstore or online. Do not purchase any edition earlier than the 9th. I do not have previous editions, and given changes in the exercises, I will not be able to grade your assignments. If you submit assignments from an edition prior to the 9th, you will receive a zero for the exercises I cannot grade. So remember when purchasing your text, purchase the 9th edition or any edition higher than the 9th.

This course is divided into three sections. Each section covers two chapters in the book. There are three exams for the course, for each section there is an exam. To prepare for the exam, there are either 3 or 4 assignments. The assignments are to prepare you for the types of problems you'll find on the exams. Work hard on the assignments, for your understanding of the assignments should reflect your grade on the exams. You'll receive feedback as to how you did on the assignments, but assignments will not be returned.

You may submit assignments online, fax, or mail them to me. My mailing address and fax number are found on the syllabus.

The first exam you will take online, but the final two exams, given that you'll need to show the work, will be sent to you and proctored. You will have 60 minutes to complete the exams, and they are open book and open note.

You will find contact information for me on the syllabus. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email, phone, or fax. When you initially register for this course, I would welcome a call or message from you so that we may get to know each other better. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns. The preferable way of contacting me is via email or by letter; I check my voicemail irregularly.

Sincerely,

George Backen, PhD, JD

Credit Hours

Three

Prerequisites

None

Catalog Description

An introduction to the essential principles of logical thinking, with particular attention to the fundamentals of inductive and deductive reasoning.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

1. Learn the basic vocabulary of the subject
2. Recognize arguments, informal fallacies, and formal fallacies
3. Translate statements and arguments into symbolic form
4. Use truth tables to test arguments for validity and to test statements for consistency
5. Understand the symbolic representation of propositional logic

6. Apply the rules of inference, replacement and implication to construct proofs for validity

Course Materials

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1076** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbook

Hurley, Patrick, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 9th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Higher Education, 2006. ISBN: 0-534-58505-1

Feel free to get an edition higher than the 9th, but do not purchase an edition lower than the 9th.

Optional Textbook or other materials:

Burch, Robert, *Study Guide for Hurley's A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 9th Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Higher Education, 2006. ISBN: 0-495-00026-4

Since you'll be working through this course on your own, the study guide is HIGHLY recommended; the study guide has answers to problems in the text. Be sure to get the study guide that is the same edition as your text!

Course Instructions

There are three sections for this course. Each section covers two chapters in the book. For each chapter, there are Learning Objectives in the study guide. These provide an overview of what you should know before taking the exams. But the best strategy for success on the exams is becoming proficient at solving the problems. To ensure success on the exams, do all the problems for the exercises in the book.

When you submit your assignments, provide the edition of the text you are using.

Course Requirements

The course consists of three exams. You will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. Exams are open book and open notes, and must be completed in one sitting. That is, once you begin an exam you must complete it within 60 minutes. In order to finish the exams in the allotted time, you'll need to be proficient at the problems. To become proficient you'll need an excellent understanding of the methods and types of problems in the assignments. Your first exam will be in the Assessments tab on the left. Do not start the exam until you are able to fully complete it. Once you start, you must finish.

There are 10 assignments for the course. Assignments can be posted online, emailed, faxed or sent through the mail.

Grade Distribution and Scale

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

3 Exams	100 pts. each	300
10 Assignments	30 pts. each	300
	Total Course Points:	600

Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	100 – 90	600-540
B	89-80	539-480
C	79-70	479-420
D	69-60	419-360
F	59-0	359-0