

DEPARTMENT HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2026

PH1250 (A2): Practical Logic – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Tina Strasbourg	PHONE:	780-539-2237
OFFICE:	C408	E-MAIL:	tstrasbourg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm or by appointment.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Practical logic is the study of critical thinking in everyday contexts. This class is foundational to all aspects of life, including our professional and personal lives. Without critical thinking people may not be able to differentiate between mere opinion and knowledge, which makes them susceptible to holding false beliefs without the means to make corrections. Critical thinking skills teach us how to identify mistakes in reasoning and how to correct these mistakes. This course teaches students the basic concepts of informal logic required for critical thinking. These concepts include the components of arguments, how to analyze logical inferences, and how to evaluate persuasive language as it is often presented in politics, news, social media, business, and even around the dinner table. In addition, students will learn how to identify logical fallacies, how to recognize good evidence (scientific or otherwise), and how to have fruitful discussions with others about even the most contentious topics.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS: MacDonald, Chris and Vaughn, Lewis (2023). *The Power of Critical Thinking* (6th Canadian. ed.). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Analyze arguments based on what counts as evidence in support of claims.
- Analyze arguments to address common mistakes in reasoning.
- Evaluate the validity of deductive arguments using propositional logic.
- Evaluate the validity of deductive arguments using categorical logic.
- Analyze the reasoning used to support our everyday beliefs.
- Analyze the reasoning used to support scientific claims.
- To gain an understanding of important philosophical approaches to critical thinking.
- To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the analysis of logical structure.
- To apply the analysis of logical structure to assumptions, values, principles, and reasoning as they affect society.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Evaluation	Chapter Content	Due Date	Value
Participation			10%
Quiz 1	Chapter 1	September 22	5%
Quiz 2	Chapter 2	October 1	5%
Quiz 3	Chapter 8	October 15	5%
Quiz 4	Chapter 3	October 27	5%
Quiz 5	Chapter 4	November 17	5%
Quiz 6	Chapter 5	November 26	5%
Quiz 7	Chapter 7	December 3	5%
Quiz 8	Chapter 6	December 11	5%
Midterm	Chapter 1, 2, 8	October 20	20%
Final	Chapter 3,4,5,6,7	TBA	30%

(The final exam is due during the final exam period. Please check the registrar's posting for a schedule of final examinations.)

Expected Statutory Holidays and Breaks: (no class on these days)

September 30th—National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October 12th—Thanksgiving Day

November 9th to 13th—Fall Break

Class Participation:

Participation is more than just speaking in class. Being an engaged listener is to participate in a meaningful way. Participation also consists in engaging in your responsibility to find essential information on the course outline, keeping track of due dates, submitting material on time, and keeping up with course content when you are unable to attend class. Of course, it also entails finishing the reading beforehand and preparing any questions you might have about the material. Your grade will be based on a combination of all these aspects of participation.

Quizzes and Exams:

The quizzes are take-home and should be completed through myClass prior to the due date.

- The quizzes will evaluate your comprehension. Students should be prepared to answer content questions from material covered in class, which includes lectures, in-class discussion, and course readings. It is therefore to students' advantage to attend every lecture.
- The midterm and final exam will test you on the application of the concepts covered in class. We practice applying the concepts in class, which is another reason why it is to your advantage to attend every lecture.
- Exam and quiz deferrals may only be granted in extenuating circumstances such as extreme illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student's control. Extensions will not be granted for missed assigned deadlines for reasons within the student's control, e.g. work commitments, family holidays, or forgetfulness.

Contesting Grades:

How you do on an assignment has no bearing on you as a person. One of my priorities in this class is to help you learn, and the assignments and my comments on your work are aimed at this goal. I do not expect perfection, and neither should you. I expect you to do your best and to use the assignments to help guide you on how you can improve.

If you wish to contest your grade, please do the following:

1. Double check the assignment instructions and the grading criteria.
2. Thoroughly read all the comments in a charitable manner.
3. Make an appointment to discuss your grade. Please do not ask me to go over your individual assignment in class.
4. Come to the appointment prepared. After looking over the comments and the assignment requirements, you should be able to articulate why you think your answer should have earned more marks.
5. Please remember I can only give you grades for the content represented on the assignment. In the meeting, you may be able to verbally articulate what you meant to say, but if that meaning is not clearly illustrated in the assignment content, I cannot give you grades for it.
6. Language is very important. I am happy to listen to your well thought out reasons for adding marks. Please do not approach me in a combative, disrespectful manner. For example, it is better to approach the discussion from the perspective that marks are earned rather than the view that marks are taken away. This perspective allows us to go through the comments together and to make clear how you earned your marks. This process will better enable you to show me how you think you met the requirements, and if you can do so I will have no problem with changing your grade.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

- Chapter 1—The Power of Critical Thinking
- Chapter 2—The “Environment” of Critical Thinking
- Chapter 8—Inductive Reasoning
- Chapter 3—Making Sense of Arguments (Read pages 61 to 88 and the Symbolizing Arguments document on myClass)
- Chapter 4—Reasons for Belief and Doubt
- Chapter 5—Faulty Reasoning
- Chapter 7—Deductive Reasoning: Propositional Logic
- Chapter 6—Deductive Reasoning: Categorical Logic

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please do not be late for class.

Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Do not fall behind in the assigned readings because it is difficult to catch up.

If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain the information they missed.

Policies regarding final exams are governed by institutional policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the NWP Calendar. Students should consult the NWP Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

Philosophical Etiquette

Contrary to popular belief philosophy is not a blood sport. A philosophical discussion should not be thought of as an opportunity to participate in arguments that are meant to crush one's opponent. Rather it is an opportunity, first and foremost, to gain an understanding of philosophical concepts. Second, it should inspire critical analysis of philosophical concepts. And finally, it should facilitate fruitful discussion.

I expect all students to show good philosophical etiquette, which is to exhibit mutual respect for each other's ideas and comments, and that people not be *purposefully* offensive.

Pet Peeves

- Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class (this includes texting).
- The sound of binders closing and people packing-up books before I've indicated that the class is over.
- Trying to talk over people who are discussing their weekend plans during class time.
- Use of laptops or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.