

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION**

**PH 1250
Practical Logic
3 (3-0-0) UT
Fall 2003**

Instructor: Ruth Michaels
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Lecture/No pre-requisites

Calendar Description

Elementary methods and principles for analysing arguments will be covered. Topics may include informal fallacies, introduction of scientific method, elementary statistical reasoning, elementary propositional logic, rational decision procedures.

Content Description

The first, and shortest, section of the course will focus on identifying and determining the relationship between premises and conclusions in ordinary language arguments, and on learning some of the informal fallacies. The other two sections of the course will examine the two major kinds of argument, deductive arguments and inductive arguments. We will focus on developing facility in assessing the validity of syllogistic argument forms (deductive argument forms) and in assessing arguments based on analogy, causal connections, probabilistic reasoning and statistical reasoning (that is, inductive argument forms). An online tutorial programme accompanies the textbook. Use of the programme is optional but students will find that consistent use of the tutorial aids improves their performance in the course.

Texts

Copi, Irving M. and Cohen, Carl, *Introduction to Logic*, 11th edition
Class handouts on Fallacies, truth functional logic and statistical reasoning.

Timeline

(A detailed syllabus will be distributed on the first day of classes.)
Week One: What is an argument? Recognising arguments
Week Two: Parts of Arguments, Truth Functional Logic
Week Three-Four: Fallacies
Week Five-Nine: Deduction

Week Ten-Thirteen: Induction

Evaluation

- 10 problem sets.....50%
- Midterm Exams.....25%
- Final, registrar scheduled, examination.....25%
- 5 Optional Bonus Assignments (analyses of arguments in the media).....10%

Office Hours

Classroom instruction does *not* include tutorial on how to approach specific exercises in logic. One group “office hour” will be scheduled each week to allow students to address questions about specific logic exercises in the text and on the problem sets. This hour is arranged to accommodate student schedules. Regular office hours are available to students who have questions about logic exercises, assignments and class content. The online tutorials associated with the textbook are also an excellent source of tutorial instruction available to students.

Evaluation Policies

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Solutions to the problem sets are distributed when assignments are handed in, therefore late assignments will not be accepted. Students are expected to ***retain a copy of each assignment so that they can analyse and correct their errors immediately after handing in their work.*** Extensions of assignment deadlines will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. Students are expected to begin work on assignments on the day the assignment is made and should not expect to be able to complete a problem set in a single evening. Students requesting extensions may be asked to show evidence of work done prior to requesting an extension. Requests for extensions will not be considered on the day materials are due. Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty submitting their work on time.

Penalties for assignments submitted for credit late without prior permission from the instructor are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late.**

Deferred writing of a scheduled Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook.

Absences

Students should be aware that they are expected to meet their academic responsibility to attend classes. The instructor reserves the right to debar a student from writing the final exam when the student has accumulated more than 10% (2-3 classes) of ***unexcused*** absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of ***verifiable illness, dentistry, accident or emergency.*** If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In

addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are encouraged to form study and discussion groups, however, assignments must be the independent work of the individual seeking credit for the assignments and students should be prepared to demonstrate that the work they turn in is their own. All forms of plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and will be dealt with as such. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with GPRC policy on plagiarism and cheating as outlined under *Student Responsibilities* and *Plagiarism and Cheating* in the Student Handbook.