

Philosophy 101 – Introductory Logic – Sections 001C/002C
Spring 2008 - Syllabus

Professor- Dr. Larry A. Herzberg **E-mail address-** herzberg@uwosh.edu

Times/Locations- 001C MWF 10:20-11:20; 002C MWF 11:30-12:30 N. Halsey 260.

Office Hours/Location- MW 4:30-5:30, F 1:00-2:00, Polk 69.

Text- Customized – and less expensive – soft-cover version of Patrick Hurley’s *A Concise Introduction to Logic* (10th edition), available only in the University bookstore. However, if you’d like to spend more for the full text, you can also buy the regular hardcover version.

In this course you will develop reasoning skills relevant to anyone pursuing a higher education, whatever their field of interest. By developing these skills, you will more effectively be able to understand, construct, and evaluate arguments of many kinds. Because much of the material covered in this course will be new to you, in order to learn it you must *at least* read the text and regularly attend classes. But because you are learning new *skills*, and not just facts or theories, *practice* is essential. Just as you cannot master an athletic skill merely by reading a book or listening to others talk about it, you cannot master a reasoning skill in such ways. The exercises in Hurley’s *A Concise Introduction To Logic* will help you actively develop your new skills.

Material covered- We will focus on chapters 1, 3, parts of chapters 4 and 5, and most of chapter 6 of the Hurley text. These are the only chapters included in the customized version of the text available in the University bookstore.

Homework- Exercises from the Hurley text will be regularly assigned. **You must submit your answers to these exercises on our D2L web site prior to class**, and we will discuss the correct answers during class, focusing mainly on those problems that students found most challenging.

Grading- There will be three exams, consisting mostly of multiple-choice questions. At least one of the exams will require some writing as well. Exam grades will be based on the usual scale: 94% correct or better = “A”, 88% or better = “AB”, and so on. While these percentages might be adjusted downward to better correlate with overall class performance, they will never be adjusted upward to limit the number of high grades assigned. In principle, everyone can get an “A” in this class.

| Activity | Approximate Date | Percentage of Grade |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Attendance, Homework | Ongoing | 25% |
| Exam 1 | Week 5 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | Week 9 | 25% |
| Exam 3 | Week 14 | 25% |

Desire2Learn- From time to time, I will post handouts on our D2L site to clarify aspects of the text, and to summarize material to be covered on an upcoming exam. This is also where you must submit your answers to homework exercises. I will post grades and exam curves there as well. To access D2L, go to <https://uwosh.courses.wisconsin.edu/>. Login as you would to your campus email account.

Missed Exam Policy: except in extraordinary circumstances (such a *documented* illness or accident), **no make-up exams will be given.** If you know in advance that you cannot take an exam on a given date due to some school-related obligation (such as an athletic event in which you are participating), you must arrange with me to take the exam at the testing center *before* it is given in class.

Important: there are no “stupid questions”! In fact, **asking relevant questions in or out of class can be a source of extra credit.** If you do not understand something, by asking me to explain it during class you are doing the entire class a favor, since if you don't understand it, probably several other students are in the same boat. If you are uncomfortable doing this, then ask me questions during office hours, or via e-mail. I'm here to help.