Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2021

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| Course Title (Credits) | PHI301: Logic (3 Credits) |
| **Content Teacher** | |
| Instructor | Nahum Brown, PhD |
| E-mail address | [nbrown@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp](mailto:nbrown@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp) |
| Office/Ext | 1-405 / 3731 |
| Office hours | TBA |

**Course Description:**

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts of critical thinking and propositional logic. The aim is to present students with a balanced survey of inductive (content) and deductive (formal) kinds of arguments. Students will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of argumentation, thereby gaining a comprehensive vision of the capacities and limitations of rationality in general. The course begins with a discussion of the fundamental principles of argument analysis. Students learn how to distinguish between premises and conclusions, how to recognize arguments from non-arguments, and also gain tools for assessing the strength and cogency of arguments in our everyday language. Students also learn how to identify and fix both formal and informal fallacies. If time permits, propositional logic will take up the last section of the course. Students will become acquainted with truth tables and natural deduction, and will practice translating from natural language into symbolic notation. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on the application of logic within our everyday lives, helping students to develop clear thinking skills, while exploring the usefulness of logic for philosophy and theoretical subjects generally.

**Required Reading:**

Patrick J. Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic,* Twelfth Edition

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| Week | Content/Activities | |
| 1 | Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions, Ch. 1.1 | |
| 2 | Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions, Ch. 1.1 | |
| 3 | Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions, Ch. 1.1 | |
| 4 | Recognizing Arguments, Ch.1.2 | |
| 5 | Recognizing Arguments, Ch.1.2 | |
| 6 | Deduction and Induction, Ch. 1.3 | |
| 7 | Deduction and Induction, Ch. 1.3 | |
| 8 | Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency, Ch. 1.4 | |
| 9 | Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency, Ch. 1.4 | |
| 10 | Testing for Invalidity, Ch. 1.5 | |
| 11 | Testing for Invalidity, Ch. 1.5 | |
| 12 | Formal and Informal Fallacies | |
| 13 | Formal and Informal Fallacies | |
| 14 | Formal and Informal Fallacies | |
| 15 | Final Exam Review | |
| Required Materials: | |
| Bring a highlighter, a red pen, a pencil, an eraser, an English-English dictionary, and an A-4 binder to every class. Instead of using a standard textbook, handouts will be given in class. There are no textbooks necessary. | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | |
| You are expected to be punctual and to attend all lessons. A delay or early departure will be counted as a half (0.5) day absence. However, any absence, delay, or early departure can be excused if an official document (e.g., doctor’s note) is submitted within 7 days of such an occurrence. When you miss a lesson, it is your responsibility to see your teachers afterwards (and perhaps other students who attended the lesson), to find out how to catch up with the work you missed. If you expect to be absent from a forthcoming lesson, you should email your teacher to explain your absence at least one day in advance.    **A maximum of four and a half (4.5) absences is allowed. The fifth absence will automatically result in a withdrawal from the course.**  **\* For the online version of this course, “absence” means absence from zoom sessions or failure to complete weekly activity submissions.** | |
| Class Preparation and Review: | |
| Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time. | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | |
|  Participation and Homework: 20%   Unit Tests: 80% (40% x 2)  **Participation**  The participation grade includes but is not limited to: being punctual, contributing to class activities, and overall attentiveness in class.  **Unit Tests**  A test will be held at the end of Units 1 and 2. Absence from a test (or failure to turn in the test on time, if the course is online) will result in a mark of ‘0’ unless documentation acceptable to Academic Affairs is provided. Make-up tests will only be provided if extenuating documentation is provided. If a make-up test is provided, it will be at least as hard as the original test.  The final grade will be determined as below.  A: 90-100 points  B: 80-89 points  C: 70-79 points  D: 60-69 points  F: Less than 60 points  Plagiarism  Plagiarism is not acceptable at MIC. Students must submit their own work and not copy from other sources, unless they credit their sources with appropriate referencing. Students caught copying information from other sources and pretending that it is their own work will automatically result in a grade of ‘F’ or withdrawal from the course. | |
| Methods of Feedback: | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one or two weeks of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objectives:   1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought) 2. The ability to identify and solve problems | |
| Notes: | |
| The schedule, policies, and procedures in this course are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. | |

