JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

PHL101
LOGIC
3 Credit Hours

Prepared by:
Michael Booker

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by
Michael Booker

Arts and Science Education
Mindy Selsor, Dean
PHL101 LOGIC

I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: None
3 semester hours credit

Logic is an introduction to critical reasoning. The course covers both informal and formal logic. Informal logic involves advertising techniques, political speech, critical analysis of research sources and decision-making theory. Formal logic involves Aristotelian Logic, truth tables, and formal systems of deductive reasoning. This course will partially fulfill the humanities requirement for the Associate of Arts degree. (F,S)

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate sensitivity to language in its relation to effective reasoning.
B. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and terms in informal logic.
C. Explain major fallacies in logic and identify them in arguments.
D. Exhibit practical skills in the critical analysis of arguments.
E. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic elements of formal logic.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this.)

1. Informal Logic
   1. Logical Fallacies
   2. Evaluation of Sources
   3. Analysis of Statistical Data
2. Formal Logic
   1. Aristotelian Logic
   2. Logical Structure
   3. Symbolic Logic
IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Informal Logic
   1. Logical Fallacies
      1. Identify common logical fallacies such as *argumentum ad hominem*, begging the question, slippery slope and straw man.
   2. Evaluation of Sources
      1. Identify characteristics which tend to make sources either reliable or unreliable.
      2. Critically analyze reference sources including the Internet.
   3. Analysis of Statistical Data
      1. Identify overuse and misuse of statistical data.

2. Formal Logic
   1. Aristotelian Logic
      1. Translate propositions into Aristotelian form
      2. Demonstrate familiarity with the Square of Opposition
   2. Logical Structure
      1. Identify the anatomy of an argument and label premises and conclusions.
   3. Symbolic Logic
      2. Use short truth tables to determine validity.
      3. Use long truth tables to determine validity.
      4. Use argument patterns to demonstrate validity.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lectures
B. Class discussions, including analysis of sample arguments
C. Reading of textbook
D. Writing of Internet Research Project

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS (STUDENT)
A. Textbook  
B. Paper for tests and exercises  
C. Access to a typewriter/word processor  

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES  
A. Internet Access  
B. Writing Center  

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION  
A. Tests  
B. Internet Research Project  
C. Class participation  
D. Attendance  

The grading scale is as follows:  
90-100 = A  
80-89 = B  
70-79 = C  
60-69 = D  
Below 60 = F