

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Logic: **PHIL6203**
Instructor:

Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Description

The course introduces students to basic principles of logic and critical thinking and how to apply them as part of a Christian intellectual life. Attention will be given to the use of logic in biblical interpretation, theological construction, philosophical explanation, and apologetic and evangelistic presentation.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2013-2014 is Doctrinal Integrity. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

- *Doctrinal Integrity*: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

- *Spiritual Vitality*: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

- *Mission Focus*: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

- *Characteristic Excellence*: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- *Servant Leadership*: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of logic by completing class units.
2. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of logic by reading the primary text and working through numerous homework examples.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of logic when tested through quizzes and exams.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of logic by identifying valid and invalid arguments as well as logical fallacies they encounter through reading and watching television, movies, etc.

Methodology

The course will utilize instructional videos, reading assignments, practical exercises in logic, and quizzes/exams.

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

Evaluation

Quiz average	20%
Homework average	20%

Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Fallacy Journal	10%
	100%

Texts

REQUIRED

Layman, C. Stephen. *The Power of Logic*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Assignments

1. Quizzes:

- a. Quizzes are based solely on the reading assignment for each unit. They are closed notes and textbook. Students have 20 minutes to take each quiz. The quiz will not auto-submit, but student will be docked points for going over time limit.
- b. *Due*: Each quiz will be due at the end of each week of the course on Fridays, 11:59pm via Blackboard starting August 30th, 2013. Late work policies are described in policy section of syllabus.

2. Homework Exercises: These are assigned homework exercises at the end of each section in the assigned readings. They will teach the student how to practically apply the concepts and techniques related to the principles of logic covered in each chapter.

- a. *Due*: Each assignment will be due at the end of each week of the course on Fridays, 11:59pm via Blackboard starting August 30th, 2013. Late work policies are described in policy section of syllabus.

3. Fallacy Journal: Student will submit a journal that cites one example of each informal fallacy that the student encounters throughout the semester in media, literature, social media, etc. Student will (1) note the fallacy found, (2) describe the example found and how it is an example of fallacy, and (3) provide reference to the example (bibliographical, website address, etc.). The student may not use any search engine to find the example of a fallacy. For example, the student may not search using the words “informal fallacies, informal fallacy examples,” or “equivocation, equivocation example,” etc. The student may intentionally search for debates, philosophical arguments, articles, news outlets, etc. by using a search engine for research. The goal of the assignment is for the student to become better

at identifying fallacies through the normal course of their interaction with argumentation. **Due day of final exam.**

Policies

Quizzes of specific units are required to be taken by 11:59pm on Friday of each week beginning August 30th. No late quizzes will be accepted. Exercise assignments are due 11:59pm on Friday of each unit week beginning August 30th. Homework will be accepted for two weeks after due date. If turned in past due date, five points will be deducted from homework's grade. Once past one full week late, ten points will be deducted from homework grade. Homework will not be accepted after two weeks from the due date, and the student will be given a zero for the assignment.

Course Outline

COURSE INTRODUCTION	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Why Study Logic and Critical Thinking</i>
Exercise Assignment	Discussion Group Entry Bio

UNIT ONE:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Basic Concepts</i> What Is an Argument? Validity and Soundness Forms and Counterexamples Well-Known Forms Strength and Cogency
Reading Assignment	Chapter 1

Exercise Assignment	Exercises: 1.1 Part A even, 1.1 Part B, non-asterisk, 1.1 Part C even, 1.1 Part D even of 1-10, 1.2 even of 1-10, 1.3 Part A even, 1.4 Part B all, 1.4 Part C odd of 1-10, and 1.4 Part D odd
Quiz	Take Quiz 1

UNIT TWO:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Identifying Arguments</i> Arguments and Non-arguments Well-Crafted Arguments <i>Logic and Language</i> Logic, Meaning, Emotive Force Definitions Using Definitions in Evaluating Arguments
Reading Assignment	Chapter 2 and 3
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 2.1 A: 1-10 odd, 2.1 B: odd, 2.2 A 1-5, 3.2 A 1-15, 3.2 B all, 3.3 A 1-5, and 3.3 C 1-5
Quiz	Quiz 2

UNIT THREE:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Informal Fallacies</i> Fallacies of Reference Fallacies of Ambiguity Fallacies of Unwarranted Assumptions

Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 4
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 4.1–4.3 Part As: 1-10
Quiz	Quiz 3

UNIT FOUR:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables</i> Symbolizing English Arguments
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.1
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.1 A even, 7.1 C: all, 7.1 D even
Quiz	

UNIT FIVE:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables</i> Truth Tables
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.2

Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.2 A all, 7.2 B 1-10, and 7.2 C all
Quiz	Quiz 4

UNIT SIX:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables, continued...</i> Using Truth Tables to Evaluate Arguments
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.3
Exercise Assignment	7.3 A even, 7.3 B 15-20, and 7.3 C 1-5
Quiz	Quiz 5

UNIT SEVEN:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Truth Tables, continued.....</i> Abbreviated Truth Tables
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.4
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.4 A even, 7.4 C: all, 7.4 D 1-5,

UNIT EIGHT:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Truth Tables, continued.....</i> Tautology, Contradiction, Contingency, and Logical Equivalence
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.5
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.5 A 1-14 even, 7.5 B even, and 7.5 C even
Quiz	Quiz 6

UNIT NINE: EXAM 1	
<i>Topic</i>	MIDTERM

UNIT TEN:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs</i> <i>Implication Rules of Inference</i>
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.1
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.1 even of A, B, and C. 8.1 D 1-20 even 8.1 E #1

UNIT ELEVEN:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs</i> Five Equivalence Rules
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.2
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.2 A even, C 1-10, D 1-5

UNIT TWELVE:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued....</i> Five More Equivalence Rules
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.3
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 8.3 A 1-10 even, C 1-10, D 1-5, and E #2 and 9

UNIT THIRTEEN:

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued....</i> Conditional Proof
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.4
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.4 A 1-20 even, B #4, C #5

UNIT FOURTEEN:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued....</i> Reductio ad Absurdum
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.5
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.5 A 1-20 even, D #3

UNIT FIFTHTEEN: EXAM 2:	
<i>Topic</i>	FINAL

Selected Bibliography

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