

# **Syllabus**

rev J 01/03/11

**Replaces all previous revisions.**

**Bellevue College**

## **Introduction to Logic**

**Philosophy& 106 (formerly PHIL 120)**

**item 1620B013**

**Winter 2011; 5.0 Credits**

**Instructor: Robert Morton**

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### **Course Description:**

This section of Philosophy& 106 [formerly PHIL 120] (Introduction to Logic) is similar in some aspects to Philosophy 115 (Critical Reasoning). Both courses introduce the nature and structure of argument patterns. Students in each will learn the difference between deductive and inductive reasoning, and how to assess informally the strengths and weaknesses of examples from each type of argumentation.

In PHIL& 106, however, we focus on deduction. Students enrolled in PHIL& 106 also learn how to translate arguments from English into the language of symbolic logic, use truth tables to determine both the logical character traits of statements and whether arguments are valid or invalid, and how to prove arguments valid through natural deduction, using both propositional and predicate logic.

Logic plays an important part in any rational person's life. When you argue for a position at work, at home, at school, or in the political arena, you need to provide a good reason that others should believe you are right. Moreover, you will often need to be able to determine whether someone else's arguments are good or bad. Philosophy& 106 provides high-powered tools to do this for deductive arguments (PHIL 115, on the other hand, focuses attention on inductive arguments).

This section of Philosophy& 106 is an online class. Therefore, for this course, students must be ready to motivate themselves to grapple with the texts, to study on their own, to learn in large part on their own, and to keep up with due dates. That said, the instructor is ready to be of assistance that's appropriate to an online environment. Patrick Hurley's textbook, fortunately, is the number-one seller among logic texts across North America, and thousands of students have been able to learn many valuable concepts and techniques relating to formal logic from it. The CDROM that accompanies the text provides you an opportunity to work with more basic problems before going on to more challenging ones in the text. It also provides an interactive tool to help students learn the material.

Although there are not official prerequisites for Philosophy& 106, it will be expected that students can read well, communicate clearly in writing, and use e-mail. There is little math involved with this course, but the regular use of symbols appears quickly in this course. That is why PHIL& 106 fulfills a Quantitative Skills Requirement for a degree

from BC.

The instructor is happy to respond to specific questions on specific problems, but will not be of much help if students send messages saying merely that they are “lost.” The instructor will also expect that students are capable of reading college-level textbooks, and will do so to answer many of the basic questions that arise in the course of their study of logic.

This class fulfills a requirement for either Quantitative/Symbolic Reasoning or non-lab Science for an Associate in Arts & Sciences degree at BC.

**Required Course Texts:**

A Concise Introduction to Logic

TENTH EDITION

author: Patrick Hurley

publisher: Cengage Thomson Wadsworth

ISBN-13: 978-0-495-50383-5

ISBN-10: 0-495-50383-5

Learning Logic 5.0 CD-ROM for Hurley's A Concise Introduction to Logic, 10th Edition

VERSION 5.0

authors: Hurley / DeMarco

publisher: Cengage Thomson Wadsworth

ISBN-10: 0-495-50559-5

ISBN-13: 978-0-495-50559-4

Both the textbook AND the CD are required. Please do not ask if you may use a different textbook or a different edition of the Hurley text. Do not ask if the textbook and/or CD are optional. They are not. It is the responsibility of each student to acquire the proper textbook and proper CD in a timely manner.

**Course Requirements:**

Weekly assignments: 100% of course grade

Read <http://bellevuecollege.edu/ArtsHum/policy.html>

**Grading Policy:**

Weekly assignments are found on this course's Blackboard Vista Web site. Each assignment has a specific due date. Assignment scores will be sent back after the instructor has evaluated the assignment. That may take varying amounts of time. Students may turn weekly assignments in early, but should not expect grades for such assignments to be sent out early. Late assignments will not be accepted. The date each assignment is due is posted. Students have until midnight of the due date to submit assignments electronically (via Blackboard Vista e-mail). The date and time of transmittal are on each e-mail; if the time sent is after midnight, the assignment will not be accepted. Remember that you are responsible for submitting assignments on time. Avoid missing a deadline and getting no credit for an assignment due to computer, server, weather, health, or other

problems. Those are not acceptable reasons for submitting late work. My advice, both from a practical and a pedagogical perspective, is to plan ahead and get your work submitted well before the deadline.

At the end of the quarter, the instructor will drop the one lowest weekly assignment score along with the one highest weekly assignment score in calculating the cumulative weekly assignment score for the course grade – if doing so benefits the student's final score.

It is each student's responsibility to be aware of the due dates, and to find a working computer and Internet connection to send their assignments in on time.

Plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, with no chance to make up that assignment. Do not copy anyone else's words (whether that person is a fellow student, an author of a book or magazine article, or a source from the Internet). Students are expected to be honest in their course work. Students may seek the assistance of others in the form of tutorials, student study groups, or helpful advice. But students may not work together on specific assignment problems.

Each student is expected to do his or her own work for weekly assignments. A score of zero given for violation of the plagiarism / cheating policy in this class is not eligible for the "low / high drop" safety net.

The instructor does not give Hardship Withdrawals or Incompletes to salvage students' GPAs or to maintain their financial aid. The course is designed so that all students may do well, but if for some reason (and there are many good reasons in our busy lives) you stop turning in work, then you should quickly contact the Registration Office and officially withdraw from the course. Otherwise you will receive a course grade (A-F) based on the course work you did and did not complete. This often results in a failing grade. It is your responsibility to find out the last day in which you may drop a class.

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs must meet with the Disability Resource Center, room B132 [(425) 564-2498 or TTY (425) 603-4110] to establish eligibility for accommodation. In addition, students are encouraged to review their accommodation requirements with the instructor during the first week of the quarter.

For information on BC's Philosophy Tutorial Program and other Philosophy classes, visit the Philosophy Department's Web site at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/philosophy/>

### **Special Topics:**

The final two weeks of the quarter have been reserved for the consideration of material that goes beyond the textbook. Students will be addressing:

- 1) the application of Logic to the design of computers and devices that incorporate embedded processors, and
- 2) the application of Logic to computer programming.

With only a week apiece, the Special Topics cannot pretend to be an in-depth look at

these areas. They are intended to give the student an insight into practical applications that marry concepts of philosophy and technology. The instructor will distribute material for these Special Topics.

### **PHIL& 106 Course Schedule**

References below are to chapter sections of Patrick Hurley's A Concise Introduction to Logic (Tenth Edition), and to the Winter 2011 due dates for the weekly assignments, which are due by midnight of the due date. We will not be covering every section of every chapter in the Hurley text. The book is designed to be used for both a Critical Reasoning class (e.g., PHIL 115) and our formal symbolic logic class (e.g., PHIL& 106).

Assignments are due no later than midnight of the indicated due date. Note that assignments may be due on differing days of the week, depending on holidays and other factors.

Winter quarter starts January 03, 2011.

Week One: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 Assignment 01 Due January 10, 2011.

Week Two: 6.1, 6.2 Assignment 02 Due January 18, 2011.

Week Three: 6.3, 6.4, 6.6 Assignment 03 Due January 24, 2011.

Week Four: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 Assignment 04 January 31, 2011.

Week Five: 7.5, 7.6 Assignment 05 Due February 07, 2011.

Week Six: 4.1, 4.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 Assignment 06 Due February 14, 2011.

Week Seven: 8.4 Assignment 07 Due February 22, 2011.

Week Eight: 8.6, 8.7 Assignment 08 Due February 28, 2011.

Week Nine: Special topics Assignment 09 Due March 07, 2011.

Week Ten: Special topics Assignment 10 Due March 14, 2011.

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