Introduction to Logic and Scientific Reasoning PHILO 170 (#14046) Hunter College/Fall 2021 Course Syllabus

This is a fully online course

Instructor: Dr. Justin Garson Office: HW 1417 Office Hours (physical and virtual) Thursdays, 11-12 and by appt. Email: jgarson@hunter.cuny.edu

Course Description:

The activity of persuading each other of our beliefs by giving reasons for them is a prominent feature of our social life. Even outside of the context of persuasion, we often come up with reasons that support, or challenge, the beliefs that we already hold. The process of supporting or challenging beliefs by giving reasons is called argument. The purpose of this course is to enable students to identify arguments, understand the structure of those arguments, classify them (e.g., as deductive, inductive, argument by analogy, etc.), evaluate them (are they good? bad? reasonable?), and construct novel ones. Although this is not a course in formal or symbolic logic, some basic logical symbolism will be introduced and utilized in the section on deductive arguments.

Required Text:

Govier, Trudy. *A Practical Study of Argument, 7th edition enhanced*. ISBN: 978-1-1339-3464-6 (available at Shakespeare & Co and Hunter College Bookstore.). <u>http://hunter.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/276533</u> <u>5/</u>

Course Requirements:

Students are required to complete an online midterm and final exam (20% each), weekly online tests (50%), and to participate in five online discussions (10%). All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard which will close at midnight (11:59 PM EST) for each due date unless otherwise noted. Make-up tests will be given only in the case of documented illness or emergency.

Grade Scale:

97.5 - 100%	=	A+	80.0 - 82.4%	=	B-
92.5-97.4%	=	А	77.5 - 79.9	=	CH
90.0 - 92.4	=	A-	70.0-77.4%	=	С
87.5 - 89.9	=	B+	60.0 - 69.9%	=	D
82.5-87.4%	=	В	00.0 - 59.9%	=	F

Office Hours:

I will hold virtual office hours on Thursdays, 11-12 and by appt. To access virtual office hours, simply go to the blackboard site for this class, and click on "Virtual Office Hours" on the left-hand column of the screen. This will take you to a new page where you will click a link labeled, "Join room." Then you will be able to speak with me directly. Alternatively, you may show up in person to physical office hours from 11-12 on Thursdays or by appt.

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is the intentional and willful adoption of the ideas, statements, thoughts, or knowledge of another as one's own without clear and detailed attribution of their source. Hunter College will bring disciplinary action against students who have been caught plagiarizing or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating or obtaining unfair advantage. This includes submitting term papers or other assignments that have been submitted for other classes (or where substantial portions have been submitted for other classes). It also includes unauthorized academic collaboration on an assignment. (See the *Hunter College Undergraduate Catalog: 2004-2007, pp. 61 & 251.*)

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. In this course, getting caught for academic dishonesty leads automatically to a failing grade on the assignment as well as a notification to the dean of students.

Office of AccessABILITY:

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 4 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230.)

Course Schedule

Week 1 – WED AUG 25 – TUES AUG 31 Topic: What is an argument? Reading: Govier, Chapter 1: p. 1-11 Reading: Govier, Chapter 1: p. 13-17 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 1 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, AUG 31

Week 2 – WED SEPT 1 – TUES SEPT 7 Topic: Pinning down argument structure Reading: Govier, Chapter 2: 22-31; 34-39 Reading: Govier, Chapter 2: 41-46; 47-52 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 2 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, SEPT 7

Week 3 – WED SEPT 8 – TUES SEPT 14 Topic: Looking at language Reading: Govier, Chapter 3: 57-62 Reading: Govier, Chapter 3: 64-69 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 3 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, SEPT 14

Week 4 – WED SEPT 15 – TUES SEPT 21 Topic: Good arguments: An introduction Reading: Govier, Chapter 4: 87-93 Reading: Govier, Chapter 4: 94-100; 103-106 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 4 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, SEPT 21

Week 5 – WED SEPT 22 – TUES SEPT 28 Topic: Premises: What to accept and why Reading: Govier, Chapter 5: p. 116-128 Reading: Govier, Chapter 5: p. 131-135 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 5 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, SEPT 28

Week 6 – WED SEPT 29 – TUES OCT 5 Topic: Working on relevance Reading: Govier, Chapter 6: p. 148-151 Reading: Govier, Chapter 6: p. 154-167 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 6 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, OCT 5

Week 7 – WED OCT 6 – TUES OCT 12 NO READING: MIDTERM EXAM PREPARATION

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO TAKE YOUR MIDTERM EXAM EITHER ON MONDAY, OCT 11, OR TUESDAY, OCT 12

Week 8 – WED OCT 13 – TUES OCT 19 Topic: Deductive arguments: Categorical logic Reading: Govier, Chapter 7: p. 178-186 Reading: Govier, Chapter 7: p. 187-189 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 8 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, OCT 19

Week 9 – WED OCT 20 – TUES OCT 26 Topic: Deductive arguments: Categorical logic (cont.) Reading: Govier, Chapter 7: p. 189-193 Reading: Govier, Chapter 7: p. 199-203 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 9 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, OCT 26

Week 10 – WED OCT 27 – TUES NOV 2 Topic: Deductive arguments: Propositional logic Reading: Govier, Chapter 8: p. 216-220 Reading: Govier, Chapter 8: p. 222-224 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 10 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOV 2

Week 11 – WED NOV 3 – TUES NOV 9 Topic: Deductive arguments: Propositional logic (cont.) Reading: Govier, Chapter 8: 228-234 Reading: Govier, Chapter 8: 243-246 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 11 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOV 9

Week 12 – WED NOV 10 – TUES NOV 16 Topic: An introduction to inductive arguments Reading: Govier, Chapter 9: p. 258-265; Reading: Govier, Chapter 9: p. 275-280 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 12 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOV 16

Week 13 – WED NOV 17 – TUES NOV 23 Topic: Causal inductive arguments Reading: Govier, Chapter 10: p. 286-293 Reading: Govier, Chapter 10: p. 304-310 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 13 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOV 23

Week 14 – WED NOV 24 – TUES NOV 30 Topic: Analogies: Reasoning from case to case Reading: Govier, Chapter 11: p. 318-329 Reading: Govier, Chapter 11: p. 338-345 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 14 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOV 30

Week 15 – WED DEC 1 – TUES DEC 7 Topic: Counductive Arguments and Counterconsiderations Reading: Govier, Chapter 12: p. 352-357 Reading: Govier, Chapter 12: p. 359-366 ALL QUIZZES FOR WEEK 15 ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, DEC 7

Week 16 – WED DEC 8 – MON DEC 13 NO READING: FINAL EXAM PREPARATION

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO TAKE YOUR FINAL EXAM EITHER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, OR MONDAY, DECEMBER 13