

**PHILOSOPHY 1500: INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING**  
**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**AUTUMN 2014**

PROFESSOR: Dr. Alison Duncan Kerr  
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OFFICE HOURS: MW 9:30-10:30 (or by appointment)

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LOCATION: Jennings Hall 0060  
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**Recommended Text:** Salmon, Merrilee. (2007) *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (5th Edition).

**Course Website:** <https://carmen.osu.edu>. Be sure to check the webpage on a regular basis for announcements on course information, homework assignments, recommended problem sets, and changes in the schedule. I reserve the right to assign additional readings or to change the order of the assigned readings at any point. For this reason, it is important that you attend every class and regularly check Carmen in order to be sure what the next class' assigned readings are and when the next homework will be.

**Course Description:** We are inundated with attempts to convince us of all sorts of things. Politicians try to win our vote, and advertisers try to persuade us to purchase their products. What should we believe? If someone asks why one holds a particular belief, one is likely to give reasons for one's belief. Are they good reasons? Why? Logic is the study of arguments and reasons, and it provides a method to reflect on and evaluate reasons for beliefs. It provides one with the tools to critically examine why one holds the beliefs that one holds. When one studies logic, one learns how to dissect arguments and to evaluate whether they are good ones. Logic has applications in writing, science, mathematics, computers, linguistics, and day-to-day reasoning.

**Course Requirements:** Your final grade is determined on the basis of participation during class, five homework assignments, and three exams. These requirements will be weighed as follows: Participation: 15%; Homework 20%; Exam 1: 20%; Exam 2: 20%; Exam 3: 25%.

There will be no make-up exams, except for cases of documented medical or family emergency. Requests for make-up exams must be made within 24 hours of the exam. *No late homework will be accepted.*

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct—which includes plagiarism and cheating—will not be tolerated. If I suspect that a student is involved in academic misconduct, I am obligated to report it to the university. Penalties are severe and can include failure of the course, academic probation, and even expulsion. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the university's policies on academic misconduct. They can be found here: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

**Disabilities Services:** Students who feel that they need special accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. The Office for Disability Services should also be contacted at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to arrange the necessary accommodations. For further information, see: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

**GEC Category and Expected Learning Outcomes:** Philosophy 1500 satisfies the Math and Logical Analysis subcategory of the Quantitative and Logical Skills GEC requirements (1.B.2.). The general goals and expected learning objectives of the Quantitative and Logical Skills category of the GEC are as follows:

**Goals:** Students develop skills in the quantitative literacy and logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, use mathematical models, and draw conclusions and critically evaluate results based on data.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** mathematical logical analysis: Students comprehend mathematical concepts and methods adequate to construct valid arguments, understand inductive and deductive reasoning, and increase their general problem solving skills.

**Expectations:** Every student in the class is expected to

–*comply with the University Code of Student Conduct:* (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc.pdf>). Violations of the Code will not be tolerated. Any violation will be reported to the appropriate university officials.

–*promptly notify the professor of any circumstances that may interfere with normal performance in the class.* Do not, for example, wait until the end of the semester to tell me that there is a major problem going on in your life that is the cause of your failure to turn in assignments and your poor test grades.

–*attend class regularly and read the material relevant to each class prior to class.* During class, I may announce changes in assigned readings, homework problems, and the course schedule.

–*make contributions to class discussions.* Regular participation is highly recommended and can have a positive effect on your final grade. Your participation is essential to create an optimal learning environment.

–*not interfere with your classmates' ability to learn in the classroom.* I expect you to show courtesy and respect to me and to your fellow classmates. While class is in session, please do not send text messages, surf the internet, make or answer phone calls, read things unrelated to the course, listen to headphones, etc. Please try your best to arrive on time for class. If you work or have some other obligation that will regularly cause you to miss class or come in more than fifteen minutes late, I highly recommend that you drop this course.

Week	Class	Date	Comments	Readings	Topic
1	1	27-Aug			Course Introduction
	2	29-Aug		Chapter 1	Introduction to Arguments
2		1-Sep	NO CLASS		
	3	3-Sep			
	4	5-Sep			
3	5	8-Sep	Assignment 1		
	6	10-Sep			
	7	12-Sep		Chapter 2	The Language of Arguments
4	8	15-Sep			
	9	17-Sep			
	10	18-Sep	Assignment 2		
5	11	22-Sep			
	12	24-Sep			
	13	26-Sep			
6	14	29-Sep		Chapter 3	Deductive/Inductive Arguments & Fallacies
	15	1-Oct			
	16	3-Oct	Exam		
7	17	6-Oct			
	18	8-Oct			
	19	10-Oct		Chapter 4	A Closer Look at Inductive Arguments
8	20	13-Oct			
	21	15-Oct			
	22	17-Oct	Assignment 3		
9	23	20-Oct			
	24	22-Oct			
	25	24-Oct		Chapter 5	Causal Arguments
10	26	27-Oct			
	27	29-Oct			
	28	31-Oct			
11	29	3-Nov			
	30	5-Nov	Exam		
	31	7-Nov		Chapter 8	Deductive Reasoning & Sentential Logic
12	32	10-Nov			
	33	12-Nov			
	34	14-Nov	Assignment 4		
13	35	17-Nov			
	36	19-Nov			
	37	21-Nov			
14	38	24-Nov			
		26-Nov	NO CLASS		
		28-Nov	NO CLASS		
15	39	1-Dec		Chapter 9	Categorical Syllogisms
	40	3-Dec			
	41	5-Dec			
16	42	8-Dec	Exam		
		11-Dec	Assignment 5		