

St.Jerome's in the University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy
PHIL 200J—Fall 2018
Aristotelian Logic
Course Outline

Course information:

Instructor: Stephanie Gregoire

Office: Sweeney Hall #2002

Phone: 884-8111 #28247

Office hours: Tu th 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

Lecture hours: Tu th 2:30-3:50

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Email policy: Use emails for administrative purposes only and not to ask about course content. For example, before a test, you may email me to set up an appointment but not to ask a question about the material.

Course Description/Learning Objectives:

This course is an introduction to the understanding and mastering of the tools necessary for the three basic operations of reason as presented by Aristotle in his *Organon*: definition, statement and argument. The first operation, called simple apprehension, deals with the way in which our reason reaches out and grasps the natures of things in its concepts. This operation culminates in the art of defining. The second operation, composition or division, is that by which we affirm or deny a predicate of a subject. All true or false statements are of this kind. Finally, the third operation, argumentation, starts from certain things that are laid down and proceeds validly or invalidly from these to a conclusion.

Reasoning is an activity that we perform naturally. But to reason well demands an acquired skill; that is what logic is about. Now, such an acquired skill involves not only a good theoretical grasp of the nature of definition, statement and argument, but also the ability to produce actual definitions, statements and arguments. Thus, classes will consist in the presentation and discussion of the various operations and of the tools used by them, but they will also involve a considerable number of exercises.

Here is the order in which topics will be covered. The determination of a period of time devoted to each is tentative only, for it varies a lot depending on particular groups.

Week 1:

Introduction

Weeks 2, 3:

First operation: universal concepts; equivocal, univocal and analogous words; predicables; categories; division; definition.

Weeks 4, 5:

Second operation: subject and predicate; truth and falsity; opposition; conversion.

Weeks 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12:

Third operation: argument; hypothetical and disjunctive syllogism; rules and figures of the simple syllogism; reduction of second and third figure syllogisms to the first figure; objection, refutation and reduction to the absurd; induction, enthymeme and example.

Class attendance is critical for good performance in this course.

Marking Scheme:

Examinations will consist of multiple-choice, true or false and short answer questions; they will be cumulative, and will cover both the lecture material and reading material. There will be three in-class examinations (27 September; 25 October; 15 November) worth respectively 10%, 20% and 30% of your final grade, and one final exam worth 40%. We will go over the correct answers in class.

Textbook:

You will be provided in class and on UWaterloo LEARN with documents entitled ‘Guidelines for Study’ which are more or less detailed lists of the main points raised in the lectures: these are to help you to take and to structure your course notes. You will also be provided with a number of handouts. You must obtain *Logic the Art of Defining and Reasoning*, Second Edition, John A. Oesterle, Prentice Hall at the UW bookstore.

Attendance Policy and Missed Tests:

I emphasize that class attendance is critical for good performance in this course. As for missed tests, I am forewarning you that I will be following very strictly the UW policy. That means that if you are prevented from writing a test because of sickness, a medical certificate must be presented and must provide all of the information requested by the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. It is better for all parties involved that you take good note of this at the beginning of the term. Also, note that elective arrangements such as travel plans, heavy workload, hobby commitments, family and part time jobs obligations, etc, are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time. I will make no exceptions. See <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/final-examinations/examination-regulations-and-related-matters>. All make-up midterm exams and quizzes will be offered on the first Friday following the exam, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Important Information:

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the

University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

[Academic Integrity Office \(UW\)](#): A resource for students and instructors

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Students who decide to file a grievance should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 70 \(Student Petitions and Grievances\)](#). For more information, students should contact the Associate Dean of St. Jerome’s University.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline or University of Waterloo Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, read [University of Waterloo Policy 72 \(Student Appeals\)](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services \(AS\) Office](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

