

Department of Philosophy

PHL 2077: Logic

Semester I, 2025-2026

I. Course Description

The goal of this course is, primarily, to introduce the student to the central concepts in logic. For our purposes, logic is characterized as the general study of arguments, with emphasis on the principles and methods that enable us to distinguish good arguments from bad ones. The study of logic comprises the recognition, recasting, evaluation, and construction of arguments. As such, we investigate how to recognize arguments when we come across them, either in written or in spoken form. We further study how to reorganize arguments, into a standardized form, in preparation for evaluation so that we may evaluate the strongest possible argument for the view in question. Finally, we learn how to evaluate arguments that we come across, and, of course, how to construct and evaluate our own arguments.

Logic is primarily divided into two types: deductive logic and inductive logic. This course focuses on deductive logic, though not to the exclusion of inductive logic. To that end, we are concerned to gain a working understanding of sentential (statement) logic, and, perhaps, some aspects of the predicate calculus, along with a functional comprehension of the philosophical concepts that are important when studying logic, e.g., truth, tautology, consistency, contradiction, contingency, equivalence, validity, soundness, cogency, and the like. We will also take time to learn a few of the informal fallacies and there may also be time to consider foundational concepts in other logics: e.g., modal logic, deontic logic, probabilistic logic.

II. General Information

Meetings: MWF: 8:30am-9:25am
Room, Smee Hall 100

Professor: Rob Thompson
Office: Smee Hall, 207
Phone: 849-2930
Office Hours: MWF 12:20pm-1:20pm, and by appointment
E-mail: robertthompson@pointloma.edu

Texts: The Art of Reasoning: An Introduction to Logic (5th ed.), David Kelley and Debby Hutchins

III. University Mission

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

IV. Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will recognize, recast, construct, and evaluate arguments using a variety of tools.
2. Students will investigate the art and science of human reasoning, including its limits.
3. Students will apply standard forms of argument assessment, including the informal fallacies, truth tables, and natural deduction, to reasoning in both common and technical contexts.

V. Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

VI. Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member may issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted. As with any course requirement, you bear the responsibility to ensure that the attendance requirement is met. Significant tardiness will count as an absence.

Readings: Read all of the assigned material before coming to class. To do otherwise is to start a class period in a disadvantaged position, as I will assume that everyone has finished the reading when I prepare lectures and directed discussions. Moreover, it will be difficult, at best, to do the homework assignments without having finished the reading.

Homework: Do all homework assignments. Even though homework is not explicitly figured in the final grade, and will not usually be collected, success on the exams is positively correlated to successful completion of homework exercises to a high degree. To put it another way, if a student fails to regularly do the homework, that student will find it next to impossible to succeed in this course.

Participation: Participate in class. Please feel free to ask questions or make comments that are relevant to the material we are covering at any time. In fact, such is encouraged. At times I may ask a student a direct question. On such rare occasions, the student is always free to pass on answering the question. This is different for board work in front of the class, as you are expected to participate in that from time to time.

100% **Exams:** There will be five exams, including the final. The nature of the course material is

cumulative and comprehensive, so the exams will tend that way as well and the final exam will be so by design. Each exam will account for 20% of the final grade.

Late work and extra credit: No unsanctioned late work will be accepted. No extra credit will be given unless it is offered to every student in the context of the course.

Grades will be based on the following Scale:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

VII. Course and University Policies

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism and the use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any exam or other academic exercise. It also includes assisting others in any attempt to cheat. It will not be tolerated. However, respect for academic honesty is consistent with discussing the ideas of the course with others. In fact, I encourage you to discuss any and all of the course material that you find interesting outside of class. In the end, however, you must do your written work on your own. If you have any questions about academic honesty, either in general or in particular, please ask me.

A special note on plagiarism is warranted. Each of you is responsible to know what plagiarism is and to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in your work. (A decent working definition is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort.) No act of plagiarism, whether born of one's intention or ignorance, will be tolerated in this class. Anyone caught plagiarizing will incur severe academic consequences. Such consequences will include a grade of zero for the plagiarized work, and may also include expulsion with a failing grade from the course. The student's name and an explanation of the incident will also be forwarded to the Department Chair/School Dean and the area Dean. The area Dean will review the report and submit it to the Provost and the Vice President for Student Development. It will also be placed in the student's permanent academic file. Please see the University policy stated in the catalogue ([Academic Policies](#)). Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is permitted though not expected.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT POLICY

Discrimination or harassment related to race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity or orientation, differences in ability, religious choice, or any other type of behavior that dehumanizes human beings or dismisses difference, is not conducive to a good learning environment and is harmful to human vitality and healthy community. These behaviors will not be tolerated. I encourage all students to be open to any honest, respectful, and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE POLICY

The use of inclusive language is now prevalent, even expected, throughout most sectors of our society (e.g., academia, government, business, religious organizations). Further, inclusive language is very often a more accurate and fair representation of the intended meaning of a person's communicative content. As such, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language in all written work. The avoidance of such use in a given project will result in a

lowering of the grade for that project. In addition, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language during classroom discussions.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. You may report an incident(s) using the Bias Incident Reporting Form.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#)

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the *Technology and System Requirements* information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

VIII. Tentative Course Schedule

Unit 1: Natural Language, Propositions, and Arguments

Reading: Chapters 1 & 2

Exam 1: (on or about) Wednesday, September 24

Unit 2: Fallacies & Bias

Reading: Chapters 3 & 4

Exam 2: (on or about) Wednesday, October 15

Unit 3: Category and Statement Logic: Squares, Tables, and Trees

Reading: Chapters 5-5.3, 5.5 to end & 8

Exam 3: (on or about) Friday, November 7

Unit 4: Statement Logic: Natural Deduction

Reading: Chapter 9

Exam 4: (on or about) Wednesday, December 3

Unit 5: Statement Logic: Proofs and Predicates

Reading: Chapter 10.1-10.3

Exam 5 (Final): Monday, December 15 (7:30am-10:00am)