

PHILOSOPHY/HUMANITIES 50
FALL 2012 Course Syllabus

Course Number: Humanities/Philosophy 50	Title: Introduction to Reasoning
Instructor: Judy Y. Sokei	Office: Bldg. #7, Rm 625
Class Hours: 1 hr in class = 1 hr+ outside class	Phone: 845-9425 (and voice mail)
Office hours: TR 1:30-2:30pm (or by appointment)	E-mail: jsokei@hawaii.edu

Recommended Preparation: Reading and writing skills at the college level.

Required Text: *Essential Logic: Basic Reasoning Skills for the 21st Century*, by Ronald C. Pine.

Course Purpose:

This course attempts to make students more aware and critical of the logical analysis that goes on (most often unreflectively) in everyday language. By equipping students with logical tools, the course aims to make students improve their skills in recognizing, analyzing, and evaluating arguments.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate

- a basic understanding of logic, its terms, and its application to validity problems
- how logical arguments are distinguished from other uses of language (e.g., descriptions, explanations, and value judgments)
- skill in distinguishing inductive from deductive arguments
- skill in identifying fallacies (informal reasoning) in everyday experiences and applying formal systems of analysis to discount or strengthen arguments
- mastery and application of the good thinker's toolkit (WRAITEC)
- skill in hypothetical reasoning and in the presentation and critical evaluation of evidence
- an ability to write an academic paper while recognizing and applying the concepts of logic (i.e., conclusion and premises)

Course Content: The course will be divided into two parts.

Part I The first half will be an introduction to logic and will cover basic terminology. (Chapters 1-3)

1. Why study logic—a defensive tool.
2. Arguments and language.
3. Inductive Reasoning and Reasonable Beliefs.

Part II The second half will cover the following twenty common logical (informal) fallacies: (Chapters 4-5)

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| 1. Appeals to Authority | 11. Ad Hominem Abusive |
| 2. Appeals to Popularity | 12. Ad Hominem Circumstantial |
| 3. Appeals to Loyalty | 13. Questionable Dilemma |
| 4. Provincialism | 14. Straw Person |
| 5. Traditional Wisdom | 15. Suppressed Evidence |
| 6. Two Wrongs Make a Right | 16. Ambiguity-Equivocation |
| 7. Hasty Conclusion | 17. Begging the Question |
| 8. Questionable Cause | 18. Irrelevant Reason |
| 9. Questionable Analogy | 19. Complex Question |
| 10. Slippery Slope | 20. Appeal to Ignorance |

Evaluation:

- Student evaluation will be based on attendance, 5 quizzes (at 20 pts. each=100 pts.), a paper and its outline (40 pts), a mid-term (50 pts.), and a final exam (60 pts.). An additional 20 points can be gained by active participation, pop quizzes, group work, and homework assignments. I will be posting any updates or important messages through Lulima. **No Cell Phone Usage allowed during class**, unless you clear it with me for educational purposes. All cell-phone ringers must be turned off while in class and there is **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING** allowed. If you are caught texting, you will be marked absent for the day. If your cell phone goes off, there will be punishment, though not one that infringes on your eighth amendment rights. The final grade will be based on a percentage of the total points as follows:

90-100%--A
80-89%--B
66-79%--C
55-65%--D
-54%--F, N or Inc.

Note: the “N” and “Inc.” grades are given only for special circumstances.

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me after class or in my office. Students with disabilities may obtain information on available services online at <http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/disability>. Specific inquires may be made by contacting Student ACCESS at (808) 844-2392 voice/text, by e-mail at access@hcc.hawaii.edu, or simply stopping by Student ACCESS located in Bldg. 5, Rm. 107B.