

PHI 1113, SECTION 201

# INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

*Fall 2018, Meridian, Division of Arts & Sciences*

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OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday & Thurs-  
day, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Do not leave a message at either of the phone numbers—I won't get it if you do. Email is the best way to reach me, and I will usually respond within 24 hours. If you would like a more immediate response, then you can try calling or sending a text message to 267-416-0292.

With suitable notice, changes may be made to the syllabus, readings, assignments, and schedule at any time during the semester.

## BOOKS

Johnson (2016). *Argument & Inference: An Introduction to Inductive Logic*. ISBN: 0262035251

Sufka (2011). *The A Game: Nine Steps to Better Grades*. ISBN: 1936946025

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to inductive logic. Inductive reasoning, which is the application of inductive logic, is the type of reasoning that people generally use in their day-to-day lives. It is also used in business, finance, public policy, medicine, and the natural and social sciences. Understanding the basics of inductive logic will make you a much more capable participant in many academic areas and in whatever field you choose after graduation.

Most of this course will be spent examining several different types of inductive arguments. Because probability is one of the central concepts in inductive logic, you will also learn the basic rules of probability.

If you are having trouble with any part of this course, please see me during my office hours. Most likely, everything in this course will be new to you, and it will take some work to fully grasp. The course is designed, however, to make working through the material and learning it a straightforward process. But for that, *you have to come to class*.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Two goals of this course are learning about the methods of inductive reasoning and becoming comfortable using them. Other, no less important, objectives are improving reading comprehension and problem-solving skills—individually and in groups.

## COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Letter grades will be assigned using the following scale.

A, 90 – 100 percent	D, 60 – 69 percent
B, 80 – 89 percent	F, below 60 percent
C, 70 – 79 percent	

The grades for the course will be based on this coursework and these percentages:

homework and quizzes	30 percent
three tests	70 percent
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20	
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25	
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 (DURING EXAM WEEK)	

There will be about 10 to 15 homework assignments and quizzes (10 to 15 total), and they will all count equally. They will be assigned in class or by email. The two lowest quiz or homework grades will be dropped. Quizzes and homework cannot be made up or submitted late.

**To pass this course, your average on the three tests has to be 60 percent or higher.**

There will not be any extra credit at the end of the course. Therefore, you should do as well as you can throughout the semester.

## STUDENT HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

First, read this: <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/pdf/commonMyths.pdf>.

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows:

As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.

Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the

Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honor-code.msstate.edu/policy>

To be clear, students who cheat in any way will be penalized. Cheating includes giving as well as receiving help when such help is not explicitly allowed. Plagiarism is also a form of cheating. If you have any further questions about what constitutes cheating, either ask me or see the University's policy on academic dishonesty. (I am happy to answer to any questions about cheating. But ask me before you do it.)

Also, the Office of Student Conduct:

<http://students.msstate.edu/studentconduct/>.

And questions your parents will have if you get caught cheating:

<http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/resources/parents/faqs.php>.

## TWO OTHER RULES

(1) Cell phone use, including texting, is not allowed in class.

(2) You may not use a laptop or tablet (e.g., iPad) in class.

You may, at the very beginning of class, put upcoming assignments into your phone. But besides that exception, *I should never see a cell phone or an open laptop during class.*

These rules are designed to benefit you. Although you (sitting in class) may not perceive texting as rude or distracting, the person who is addressing you will usually interpret it negatively. This applies, not only to professors, but to the people you will work with and work for once you graduate.

Laptop use can also, in some situations, be perceived as rude (often it is obvious that the laptop user is not just taking notes). But more importantly, using a laptop creates an enormous barrier to paying attention. Every student who uses a laptop in the classroom spends time on things that are not related to class (email, Facebook, games, and so forth). Consequently, these students get little or no benefit from being in the classroom, and the students' grades indicate as much. (And don't think that you're good at "multi-tasking." You're not. The

human brain doesn't work that way.)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The full schedule is posted on Blackboard and will be updated throughout the semester.

Weeks 1 - 3: Chapter 1, An Introduction to Arguments

Week 4: Chapter 2, The Induction by Confirmation

Week 5: **test 1** (on Chapter 1 and *The A Game*)

Week 6: Chapter 2, continued

Week 7: Chapter 3, More on the Induction by Confirmation

Week 8: fall break

Week 9: Chapter 3, continued

Week 10: **test 2**

Weeks 11 & 12: Chapter 4, Mill's Methods

Week 13: Chapter 5, Describing Populations

Weeks 14: Chapter 6, The Proportional Syllogism

Exam week: **test 3**

## EMAIL & USING THE INTERNET

It is assumed that all students are familiar with the internet. Nonetheless, if you have any questions, please ask.

For this class (and probably for all of your classes), you have to check your Mississippi State email frequently. If you don't want to bother with another email account, then forward your Mississippi State email to your personal email account. Instructions for how to do that are here:

<https://www.its.msstate.edu/files/BullyMailForward1.pdf>

Occasionally students have trouble connecting to Blackboard or getting it to

work properly. If this happens, it is often useful to try a different web browser (this is more worthwhile than trying a different computer). If you are using a PC, you probably already have Internet Explorer; and if you are using a Mac, you probably already have Safari. These are the best alternatives to Internet Explorer and Safari:

Firefox, <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

Google Chrome, <http://www.google.com/chrome/>

Opera, <http://www.opera.com/>

Try using one of them if Blackboard is giving you trouble (use the link to download if you don't already have the browser installed on your computer).

That being said, you are responsible for making sure that you have access to Blackboard. If you wait until the last moment to complete an assignment and then run into computer or internet problems, you simply won't be able to do that assignment—no exceptions will be made for you.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

It is the policy of Mississippi State University to accommodate students with special needs and learning disabilities as per the MSU Student Support Services policy. Students seeking accommodations on the basis of a disability or special need must contact the Office of Student Support Services (<http://www.sss.msstate.edu/>) to verify eligibility. Additional guidelines may be obtained from the Office of Student Support Services.

Academic accommodations and services are based on an individual's needs. All documentation is confidential.

## TITLE IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimina-

tion, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence, or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 662-325-8124 or by e-mail to [titleix@msstate.edu](mailto:titleix@msstate.edu)

Additional resources are available here:

<http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>

<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/PDF/91118.pdf>

<http://www.msstate.edu/web/security>