

# PHIL 2050: Logic and Critical Thinking

Spring Semester – 2026

10:00 - 10:50 AM

All sessions meet in Hickory 252

**Class Sessions: Monday/Wednesday** Hickory Hall 252

**Recitations: Friday** Hickory Hall 252

Matthew Lampert

[Matthew.Lampert@unt.edu](mailto:Matthew.Lampert@unt.edu)

**Office:** EESAT 225D

**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM *or by appointment*

## Course Description:

This course focuses on critical thinking to develop the skills for making sound arguments and for evaluating the arguments of others in order to recognize the difference between arbitrary and well-reasoned judgments. Topics include deductive and inductive modes of practical reasoning, common fallacies, rules of inference, and the formal rules of logic.

## Prerequisites:

None

## Required Materials:

**Textbook:** Patrick J. Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic*, 14th Ed. (Cengage, 2023)

## Other Material:

- 8.5" x 11" **pad of graph paper** for formal logic assignments (*recommended*)
- **Supplementary readings** are available in .pdf format on Canvas.

## Course Projects and Requirements:

Weighting of Assignments by Category

**Midterm Exam** 30%

**Fallacies Exam** 15%

**Argument Diagramming Exam** 15%

**Homework Assignments assigned and collected weekly,  
weighted equally** --- (see below)

**3 Essay Sequence see assignment descriptions for relative  
weighting** 40%

## Course Policies:

1. **Homework is not graded.** It is optional, and will be awarded points on the basis of completeness rather than correctness. For every assignment you choose to hand in, you will receive **one bonus point**. These points will be added to your **midterm exam total**.
2. **Late homework will receive no credit.** You should submit assignments in class on the listed due dates (see below), but you may submit homework early (either in class or during office hours) if you need to make advance arrangements for days when you'll be absent.

3. **You must be present in class to take the scheduled exams.** If you cannot be present during the exam date, you should make advance arrangements with me to take the exam in question early. **No late exams will be given.**
4. **The use of generative AI is strictly prohibited.** Any essay utilizing generative AI tools at any stage in the composition process will receive a zero, even if you have written some of the contents yourself. In cases where there is any doubt, essays will be checked using AI detection software (GPTZero; Originality.AI; etc.), and the analysis of these programs will be treated as decisive.

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, "Student Academic Integrity," academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Accommodation Statement:**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

**Emergency Notification & Procedures:**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Course Timeline:**

**Readings marked with an asterisk (\*):** Reading from Hurley & Watson, *A Concise Introduction to Logic, 13th Edition*

**Readings marked with a plus sign (+):** PDF readings on Canvas

Course Timeline

Date	Content
January 12	<p><b>First Day:</b> Syllabus; Introductions; Outline of the course</p> <p><b>Lecture/Discussion:</b> <i>Logic, Arguments, Persuasion, and Intelligence</i></p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Why Logic? +</p>
January 14	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Symbols and Formulas</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 6.1-6.2*</p>
January 16	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homework Due:</b> 6.1 III #1-10 (pp. 286-287*)</p>
January 19	<p><b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no class)</b></p>
January 21	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Formulas and Truth Values</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 6.2-6.3*</p>

January 23	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.2 I #1-10 (p. 294*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.2 III #1-25 (p. 295*)</p>
January 26	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Argument Validity</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 6.3-6.4*</p>
January 28	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Truth Tables for Arguments</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 6.4*</p>
January 30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.3 I #1-15 (pp. 301-302*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.3 II #1-15 (p. 302*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6.4 II #1-10 (pp. 307-308*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>You do not have to do all 25 problems in 6.4 II; but you can do more than the required 10 if you want more practice.</i></p>
February 2	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Derivation Rules</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.1+</p>
February 4	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Derivation Rules</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.1+</p>
February 6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canvas HW 01+</p>
February 9	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Practicing Derivation</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.2+</p>
February 11	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Practicing Derivation</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.2+</p>
February 13	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canvas HW 02+</p>
February 16	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Strategies for Constructing Derivations</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.3+</p>
February 18	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Strategies for Constructing Derivations</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Derivations 5.3+</p>

February 20	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canvas HW 03+</p>
February 23	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Advanced Derivations</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 7.7* and Derivations+</p>
February 25	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Advanced Derivations</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 7.7* and Derivations+</p>
February 27	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canvas HW 04+</p>
March 2	<b>Exam Review</b>
March 4	<b>Exam Review</b>
March 6	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
Week of March 9-13	<b>Spring Break (no class)</b>
March 16	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Informal Logic - Structure and Content</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 1.1-1.2*</p>
March 18	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Informal Logic - Structure and Content</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 1.1-1.2*</p>
March 20	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.1 I #1-30 (pp. 6-10*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.2 II #1-10 (pp. 25-27*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Essay #1 Due (11:59 PM)</b></p>
March 23	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Diagramming Arguments</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 1.6*</p>
March 25	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Diagramming Arguments</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 1.6*</p>
March 27	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.6 I #1-15 (pp. 62-64*)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.6 II #1-15 (pp. 64-67*)</p>
March 30	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Advanced Argument Diagramming</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Advanced Argument Analysis +</p>

April 1	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Advanced Argument Diagramming</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Advanced Argument Analysis +</p>
April 3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Argument Diagramming Exam</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Peer-Editing Report Due (11:59 PM)</b></p>
April 6	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Fallacies</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Spot Fallacies + A (Totally Not Complete) List of Fallacies +</p>
April 8	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Fallacies</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Spot Fallacies + A (Totally Not Complete) List of Fallacies +</p>
April 10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Homework Due:</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canvas HW 05+</p>
April 13	<p><b>Lecture:</b> LSAT and other Graduate Exams</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Reasoning on Graduate School Entrance Exams +</p>
April 15	<p><b>Lecture:</b> LSAT and other Graduate Exams</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Reasoning on Graduate School Entrance Exams +</p>
April 17	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fallacies Exam</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Essay #2 Due (11:59 PM)</b></p>
April 20	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Paradoxes</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Paradoxes +</p>
April 22	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Paradoxes</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Paradoxes +</p>
April 24	<p><b>Essay #3 Workshop</b></p>
April 27	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Analogical Reasoning</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 9.1-9.3*</p>
April 29	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Analogical Reasoning</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> 9.1-9.3*</p>
May 1	<p><b>Reading Day (no class)</b></p>
May 4	<p><b>Final Exams Week (no class)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Essay #3 Due (11:59 PM)</b></p>