



**Division of Philosophy, Humanities and Library Sciences
Philosophy Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/philosophy/>

Phil 2303: Introduction to Formal Logic| Lecture | #18705

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks

Distance Learning | Online | Jan 21, 2020 to May 17, 2020

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Lamont Rodgers	Office Phone:	713-718-5598
Office:	Stafford Learning Hub 305	Office Hours:	By appointment
HCC Email:	lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu	Office Location:	Stafford Learning hub 305

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

Lamont.rodgers@hccs.edu or through **Canvas**. I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

ENGL 1301

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of PHIL 2303 will use [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

The textbook is available both in Canvas and for free on my learning web page: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/lamont.rodgers/phil2303/textbook/view>

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to symbolic logic, including syllogisms, propositional and predicate logic, and logical proofs in a system of rules (Texas ACGM). It emphasizes the rules of translating language into symbols as well as the semantic and syntactic implications of the system of first-order logic, a method of reasoning ingredient to philosophy, mathematics, and computer programming (HCC Catalogue). This course stresses the HCC Core Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Literacy, and Teamwork.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Component Area Option, or the Math Foundational Component Area Option in the HCC Core Curriculum. If you are not sure that you need this course to graduate, please consult with your advisor.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Determine the logical structure of English arguments by identifying premises and conclusions.
2. Understand basic concepts in logic, such as truth functionality, validity, soundness, counter-examples, tautology, self-contradiction, logical equivalence, logical contradictoriness, and logic consistency.

3. Translate English statements into propositional and/or predicate notation.
4. Determine the validity of symbolic propositional or predicate arguments using such methods as direct/indirect truth tables, natural deduction, and/or the finite universe method.

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Learning Objectives

- 1.1 Understand the nature of logical structure in English-language arguments, including the concepts of premises, conclusions, validity, soundness, inference, strength, and cogency.
- 1.2 Identify premises and conclusions in English-language arguments and assess them for validity, soundness, strength, and cogency.
- 2.1 Learn basic logical vocabulary, including types of arguments, relations between sentences, and logical operators.
- 2.2 Assess validity, soundness, strength, cogency, logical equivalence, and logical consistency of English-language sentences.
- 2.3 Identify English-language sentences as tautology, contradiction, or contingent sentence.
- 3.1 Learn symbolic notation for each of the logical operators, including the truth table for each operator.
- 3.2 Translate English-language sentences and arguments into symbolic form using a translation key.
- 4.1 Learn the truth-table test for validity, including partial truth tables.
- 4.2 Apply the truth table method to assessing validity (finding counterexamples), identifying tautologies, contradictions, and contingent sentences, assessing logical equivalence and consistency.
- 4.3 Learn the basic rules of natural deduction, including rules of replacement.
- 4.4 Learn indirect methods of proof.
- 4.5 Derive derived rules of natural deduction.
- 4.6 Apply the rules of natural deduction to derive desired conclusions from given premises.

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities
- Read the syllabus and know the course policies

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook (THIS MAY BE EDITED OR ELIMINATED BY INSTRUCTOR)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

Four discussion forums worth 2.5 points each for a total of ten points. No late assignments are accepted. See the work schedule below.

Exams

Four exams worth 100 points each, for a total of 400 points. No late assignments are accepted. See the work schedule below.

10 Gateway quizzes worth 10 points each for a total of 100 points. No late assignments are accepted. See the work schedule below.

Grading Formula

90% to 100% (540 points to 600 points) is an A

80% to 89% (480 points to 539 points) is a B

70% to 79% (420 points to 479 points) is a C

60% to 69% (360 to 418 points) is a D

Less than 60% (359 points and below) is an F

AUD (Audit)

IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses. FINAL GRADE OF FX: Students who stop attending class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of "FX" at the end of the semester. Students who stop attending classes will receive a grade of "FX", compared to an earned grade of "F" which is due to poor performance. Logging into a DE course without active participation is seen as non-attending. Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class.

Students who receive financial aid but fail to attend class will be reported to the Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of "FX" is treated exactly the same as a grade of "F" in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress. To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP," "COM" and "I" do not affect GPA.

Incomplete Policy:

Only students in good standing in this course may receive an incomplete. If a student misses deadlines without an excuse, that work cannot be completed through an incomplete. The lone exception to this is pregnant students.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

Module 1: (Jan. 20 to Feb. 15) Gateway quizzes 1 through 4 and Exam 1 are due by the end of the day on February 15th. Discussion forum 1 is also due. Do not wait until the last minute to do the assignments. No late work is accepted. This work focuses on chapter 1.

Module 2: (Feb 16 to March 15th) Gateway quizzes 5 through 7 and Exam 2 are due by the end of the day on March 15th. Discussion forum 2 is also due. This work focuses on chapter 2.

Module 3: (March 16th to April 4th) Gateway quizzes 8 through 11 and Exam 3 are due by the end of the day on April 4th. Discussion forum 3 is also due. This work focuses on chapter 3.

Module 4: (April 5th to May 8th) Gateway quizzes 12 through 16 and Exam 4 are due by the end of the day on May 8th. Discussion forum 4 is also due. This work focuses on chapter 4.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

This is a distance learning class. Unless you have a legal or medical note indicating that you were incapable of completing the work in the allotted time frame, there are no excused assignments. This means that a note indicating that you were sick for a day or two at the end of the work period does not count as an excuse. Do not wait until the end of the work period to complete assignments.

Academic Integrity

PLAGIARISM – (Reference Student Code of Conduct) "Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit. I take this very seriously. The first time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism your assignment will be given the score of zero and you will not be allowed to re-accomplish the assignment. The second time you turn in work that is guilty of plagiarism you will be given a zero for the course. If you receive a zero for the course due to plagiarism, you will be reported to the Dean.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedure

This is a distance learning class. All work must be completed by the deadlines on the reading schedule above. Students who do not complete work on time will be regarded as absent.

Student Conduct

Please use proper “netiquette” when participating in the online classroom. Some rules of “netiquette” include:

1. Be friendly, positive and self-reflective.
2. Use proper language and appropriate titles in your responses.
3. Use effective communication—read and re-read before posting.
4. Maintain professionalism –do not use texting abbreviations or slang.
5. If you do not understand a question or response, please ask for clarification.
6. Always be respectful of others and their privacy.

(Adapted from Patsalides, 2010: <http://www.brighthub.com/education/online-learning/articles/26946.aspx>)

Electronic Devices

This does not apply to us.

PHILOSOPHY Program Information

Add program-specific information such as the following:

- PHIL Majors
- Careers in PHIL
- HCC PHIL Student Organizations
- PHIL Scholarships

Provide details for each OR include links to the information

HCC Policies

Here’s the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC

- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
 Director EEO/Compliance
 Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
 3100 Main
 (713) 718-8271
 Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Helen Graham, Ed.D.
 713-718-7258
 Codwell Hall room, 125
 555 Community College Dr.
 Houston, TX 77013

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/helen.graham>