



# Philosophy Syllabus

Introduction to Formal Logic, PHIL 2303

Instructor: Zachary Akin

Spring 2019, Web-Enhanced (3 Credit Hours)

Learning Web Page:

HCC Alief Campus, Room B124

<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/zachary.akin>

7:00 – 8:20pm MW

Email: [zachary.akin@hccs.edu](mailto:zachary.akin@hccs.edu)

## Course Description:

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.

## PREREQUISITE(S):

- ENGL 1301 or higher

## HCC CORE CURRICULUM:

This course satisfies the **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.

## Student Learning Outcomes:

- 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.

### **Notice About Online Learning Management Software:**

This is a *web-enhanced* lecture course that uses *Eagle Online Canvas*. The *Eagle Online Canvas* logon page is:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>

Your Eagle Online ID is now the same as your HCC User ID which is used for Online Registration (for example: W0034567). If you don't know your HCC User ID, you can [retrieve it here](#). Your default Eagle Online password at the beginning of the term is: "distance". This password is independent of your Online Registration password or Blackboard Vista password. You will be required to change your password when you first log in.

IMPORTANT: Eagle Online works best with the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Download is free, [here](#). (Please check your Operating System to see if you have Firefox in your applications.)

### **TEXT:**

Klenk, Virginia. *Understanding Symbolic Logic*. Prentice Hall (Paper Edition, 2008)

ISBN: 0132051524

### **Course Calendar:**

[To be discussed in class]

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 20%

Exam 3: 20%

Final: 20%

In-Class Participation/Homework Exercises: 20%

Attendance: 5%

### **Grading Policy:**

The term grade legend follows:

A = 90% to 100%

B = 80% to 89.9%

C = 70% to 79.9%

D = 60% to 69.9%

F = 0% to 59.9%

FX (Failure due to non-attendance)

IP (In Progress)

W (Withdrawn)

I (Incomplete)

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.

### **Late policy:**

We will begin class precisely at 7:00 pm. Please try to be present and ready at the time, remain for the entire class, and spend class time focused on the material at hand. (That said, I do understand that sometimes circumstances conspire to make us late. Please come to class anyway, and, should you need to arrange to arrive late or leave early, I will gladly accommodate.)

*\*Philosophy Tutoring is available at <http://hccs.askonline.net/> **Please use it if you need it !!***

### **Academic Honesty:**

Learning and teaching take place best in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom and openness. All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness

through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in the student handbook.

### **Make-up Policy:**

Attendance in this class is extremely important. Since we are dealing with complex and difficult material, it is vitally important that you are in class and ready to participate daily. If you are unable to attend the class, it is your obligation to arrange with a classmate the acquisition of the day's material. Do not contact me to ask if you have missed "anything important". You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion.

Exams will commence at the start of class. I expect everyone to arrive on time, prepared with the needed materials. I will lock the classroom door exactly ten minutes after the exam has begun. If you arrive after that, you will not be allowed to take the exam. I will allow make up exams for the following reasons ONLY:

Illness

Death of a loved one

Military exercises – etc.

Legal proceedings

If your absence is due to one of these reasons you must let me know WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE MISSED EXAM. After you provide proper documentation we will schedule your make up exam. If you fail to notify me within 24 hours, or your absence is not due to the above exceptions then YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP THE EXAM.

### **Attendance and Withdrawal Policy:**

HCC Students are expected to attend class regularly. A daily record of absences will be maintained throughout the semester. NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to drop, or officially withdraw from this course. Your instructor will withdraw a student if and only if provided a written request from that student. Additionally, system-wide rules affect withdrawals:

- (1)** Students who repeat a course for a third, or more times, may face a significant tuition/fee increase at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities.
- (2)** The Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.
- (3)** No student may withdraw from a course following the set "last date to withdraw", After that date and time, a student can only be given a grade earned, or an "I" for incomplete. Incompletes must be made up by the end of the following long semester, after which they will automatically change to a grade of "F". Students receiving an "I"

for a course are ineligible for graduation until the "I" has been removed from a student's transcript.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

To visit the ADA Web site, log on to [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), click Future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at YOUR COLLEGE

### **Student Services Policies:**

<http://hccs.edu/student-rights>

### **EGLS3 – Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System:**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

**Title IX Discrimination:** 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 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 - Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) (713) 718-8271

**Open/Campus Carry of Handguns:** At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

Reading Schedule (Subject to Changes, of which you will be notified):

\*\*\*An asterisk indicates days that homework exercises are due.

**Week 1: 1/14 - 1/16**

Introduction

Chapter 1 – pt. 1

**Week 2: 1/21 - 1/23**

No class 1/21 – MLK Jr. Day

\*Chapter 1 – pt. 2

**Week 3: 2/4 - 2/6**

Chapter 2 pt. 1

\*Chapter 2 pt. 2

**Week 4: 2/11 - 2/13**

Exam 1

Chapter 3 – pt. 1

**Week 5: 2/18 - 2/20**

No Class 2/18 – Presidents' Day

\*Chapter 3 – pt. 2

**Week 6: 2/25 - 2/27**

Chapter 4 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 4 – pt. 2

**Week 7: 3/4 - 3/6**

Chapter 5 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 5 – pt. 2

**Week 8: 3/11 - 3/13**

No Classes – Spring Break 3/11 – 3/15

**Week 9: 3/18 - 3/21**

Chapter 6 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 6 – pt. 2

**Week 10: 3/25 - 3/27**

Review

Exam 2

**Week 11: 4/1 - 4/3**

Chapter 7 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 7 – pt. 2

**Week 12: 4/8 - 4/10**

Chapter 8 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 8 – pt. 2

**Week 13: 4/15 - 4/17**

Review

Exam 3

**Week 14: 4/22 – 4/24**

Chapter 9 – pt. 1

\*Chapter 9 – pt. 2

**Week 15: 4/29 – 5/2**

Review/Catch-Up

Review/Catch-Up

**Final Exam**

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.