

BOSTON COLLEGE

S U M M E R S E S S I O N

*Please note that this syllabus should be regarded only as a general guide to the course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

PHIL 125201 Practical Logic (Stokes 215N)

Boston College Summer Session 2019

Summer 1, May 14–June 20

T TH, 6:00-9:15 p.m. (Stokes 215N)

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Office Hours: T TH, 5-6 p.m.

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

A course not in the "new logic" (symbolic, or mathematical, logic) but in the "old logic" (ordinary language logic) invented by Aristotle and used for 2300 years in all the humanities. Includes such topics as definition, contradiction, syllogisms, implied premises, induction, and analogy. The course includes the commonsensical philosophical bases for this logic and also many practical applications to reading, interpreting, evaluating, and inventing arguments, especially in dialogs. Weekly quizzes, extra credit opportunities, and a final exam.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)

Kreeft, Peter, *Socratic Logic* Edition 3.1 ISBN 978-1587318085

Dostoevsky, Fyodor, *Notes from the Under Ground*, trans. Pevear et al. (Vintage) ISBN 978-0679734529

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click [here](#).

Course Objectives

1. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
2. Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking my own questions and seeking answers.
3. Students will demonstrate understanding across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age on logic and what it means to think logically as demonstrated by participation in class discussions and made evident on quizzes and exams.
4. Students will demonstrate ethical insight pertaining to argumentation as demonstrated participation in class discussions and made evident on quizzes and exams.

Grading

A: 95%-100%	A-: 94%-90%	B+: 88%- 89%
B: 85-87%	B-: 80%-84%	C+: 78%-79%
C: 75%- 77%	C-: 70%-74%	D: 65%-69%

The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
F (.00)

The graduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

A (4.00), A- (3.67)
B+ (3.33), B (3.00)
B- (2.67), passing but does not count toward degree
C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit
F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the [Office of Student Services](#).

Deadlines and Late Work

Course assignments are to be done on time. If a student is in need of an extension, he must contact me at least 3 days before the assignment is due. Failure to hand in an assignment on time will result in the loss of a letter grade. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis.

Course Assignments

It is expected that you will spend 12 hours per week on out-of-class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 12 hours per week over the semester.

- 1. Attendance/Class Participation (25%)** – this will be a discussion based course. Students are encouraged to be active participants in the course. Each day a student comes to class on time, prepared by having done the reading, focused and on task, and engaged—when he is a contributing member of our learning community—he will earn a 90. Each day these criteria are not met, he will earn a 0.
- 2. Quizzes (25%)** – there will be 6 quizzes over the course of the semester (roughly 1 a week). Each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Thus each quiz will count as 5% of a student's semester grade.
- 3. Midterm (25%)** – an exam at the midpoint of the semester which will cover all material taught to that point.
- 4. Final Exam (25%)** – a cumulative exam that covers the material taught over the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
May 14	What is Logic?	Intro (Sections 1, 4, 5) and Chapter One: Understanding (whole chapter)
May 16	Terms	Chapter Two: Terms and Quiz 1 (on Intro, Ch. 1-2)
May 21	Fallacies and Definitions	Chapter Three (Sections 1-4) and Chapter Four: (Sections 1-3)
May 23	Judgment	Chapter Five: Judgement (whole chapter) and Quiz 2 (on Ch. 3-5)
May 28	Changing Propositions and Contradiction	Chapter Six: Changing Propositions (whole chapter) and Chapter Seven: Contradiction (whole chapter)
May 30	Reasoning and Arguments	Chapter Eight: Reasoning (Sections 1,2, 5) and Chapter Nine: Arguments (Sections 2, 3, 4, 5) and Quiz 3 (on Ch. 6-9)
June 4	Midterm	Midterm
June 6	Syllogisms	Chapter Ten: Syllogisms (whole chapter) and Quiz 4: (on Ch. 10)
June 11	More Syllogisms	Chapter Eleven: Validity (Sections 1 and 2) and Chapter Twelve: Difficult Syllogisms (Sections 1,3)
June 13	Compound Syllogisms	Chapter Thirteen (whole chapter) Quiz 5: (on Ch. 11-13)
June 18	Dostoevsky And Final Prep	<i>Notes From the Underground</i> (all of Part I)
June 20	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

Written Work

Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor's requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the [Connors Family Learning Center](#).

Attendance

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.

Consistent with BC's commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- [The Connors Family Learning Center \(CFLC\)](#) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- [The Disabilities Services Office \(DSO\)](#) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC's commitment to accessibility at www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility.

Scholarship and Academic Integrity

Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student's work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](#) for more information.