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Division of Humanities
Course Syllabus
Logic
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Course Title:	Logic
Course Code:	HUMA 1720
Course Offered in:	Spring 2017
Course Instructor:	Dr. Nahum Brown
Class Schedule:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00- 1:20 PM
Classroom:	2464 (lifts 25-26)
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 1:30- 3:30 (by appointment)
Office:	3334
Prof. Email:	hmnahumbrown@ust.hk
Teaching Assistant	TAN Nan
TA Email:	ntanaa@connect.ust.hk

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts of critical thinking and propositional logic. The aim is to present students with a balanced survey of inductive (content) and deductive (formal) kinds of arguments. Students will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of argumentation, thereby gaining a more comprehensive vision of the capacities and limitations of rationality in general. The course begins with a discussion of the fundamental principles of argument analysis. Students learn how to distinguish between premises and conclusions, how to recognize arguments from non-arguments, and also gain tools for assessing the strength and cogency of arguments in our everyday language. Students also learn how to identify and fix both formal and informal fallacies. Propositional logic will take up the last third of the course. Students will become acquainted with truth tables and natural deduction, and will practice translating from natural language into symbolic notation. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on the application of logic within our everyday lives, helping students to develop clear thinking skills, while exploring the usefulness of logic for philosophy and theoretical subjects generally.

Required Reading:
Patrick J. Hurley, *A Concise Introduction to Logic,* Twelfth Edition

Course Outline:

Class	Date	
1	Feb 1	Introduction to the course
2	Feb 6	**Basic Concepts of Informal Logic:** Chapter 1.1: Arguments, Premises, and Conclusions

3	Feb 8	Chapter 1.2: Recognizing Arguments
4	Feb 13	Chapter 1.2: Recognizing Arguments; Chapter 1.3: Deduction and Induction
5	Feb 15	Chapter 1.3: Deduction and Induction
6	Feb 20	Chapter 1.4: Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency
7	Feb 22	Chapter 1.4: Validity, Truth, Soundness, Strength, Cogency
8	Feb 27	Chapter 1.5: Argument forms: Proving Invalidity
9	Mar 1	Quiz 1: Basic Concepts of Informal Logic
10	Mar 6	**Informal Fallacies:** Chapter 3.1: Fallacies in General; Chapter 3.2: Fallacies of Relevance
11	Mar 8	Chapter 3.2: Fallacies of Relevance
12	Mar 13	Chapter 3.3: Fallacies of Weak Induction
13	Mar 15	Chapter 3.3: Fallacies of Weak Induction; Chapter 3.4: Fallacies of Presumption, Ambiguity, and Illicit Transference
14	Mar 20	Chapter 3.4: Fallacies of Presumption, Ambiguity, and Illicit Transference
15	Mar 22	Quiz 2: Informal Fallacies
16	Mar 27	**Propositional Logic:** 6.1: Symbols and Translation
17	Mar 29	6.2: Truth Functions

18	Apr 3	6.2: Truth Functions
19	Apr 5	6.3: Truth Tables for Propositions
20	Apr 10	6.4: Truth Tables for Arguments
21	Apr 12	**No Class: Mid-Term break**
22	Apr 17	**No Class: Mid-Term break**
23	Apr 19	6.5 Indirect Truth Tables
24	Apr 24	**CLASS CANCELED**
25	Apr 26	7.1 Rules of Implication I
26	May 1	**No Class: Labor Day**
27	May 3	**No Class: the Birthday of the Buddha**
28	May 8	7.2. Rules of Implication II
29	May 10	Make up class: 8.1: Symbols and Translation

Assignments:

Attendance:	9% (0.5% x 18 classes)
Weekly assignments	17% (1% x 17 out of 18 assignments)
Quizzes	42% (Quiz 1: 22%; Quiz 2: 20%)
Final Exam	32%

Attendance and Lateness Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and on time. Attendance will be checked only at the beginning of class. Missing one or more classes makes it increasingly difficult to keep up with the material. Attendance and punctuality will affect your grade (cf. course evaluation). As a general rule, there will not be any make-up quizes or assignments.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in immediate failure of the assignment or exam. I also reserve the right to take further appropriate steps, including consultation with the dean and the possibility of expulsion from the University.

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

	Course ILOs
1	Paraphrase the logical definition of argument.
2	Distinguish valid from invalid arguments and translate sentences of ordinary language into the formal language of logic.
3	Explain in their own words important logical terminology such as valid, invalid, sound, unsound, consistent, inconsistent, contingent, necessary, theorem, tautology.
4	Use logical methods to elaborate correct reasoning, construct proofs in formal systems for sentential logic and syllogism, and use semantic methods (truth tables, counter-models) to test for validity and related properties.
5	Examine some of the sophisticated and interesting problems in philosophy through some paradigm examples.