

Bergen Community College  
Division of Arts & Humanities  
Department of Philosophy & Religion

Student Guide

**Important: This section of PHR 103 is taught entirely online. You will need regular and reliable access to the Internet to complete this course, and you must be generally familiar with using the Internet, email, etc. Success in this course requires the completion of homework on a regular basis. Although the course is not especially difficult, it is impossible if you fall behind and it is very difficult to catch up. Be warned!**

You should print out this document, and keep it available for reference throughout the course. It contains important information with which you must be familiar.

**PHR-103-099WB Basic Logic** (3 lec., 3 credits)

### **Getting In Touch**

#### **Office Hours**

My office hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm; and Wednesdays, from 2 pm to 3 pm. My office is in E-131 in Ender Hall.

Office hours are a valuable resource, and I will enjoy discussing philosophical, ethical, and religious issues with you. If you cannot come to my office, please call during office hours. If coming by, please let me know by email so that we don't inadvertently miss each other.

#### **Email**

During the semester, please use WebCT (see below) to send course related email. Outside of the semester you may reach me at [mredmond@bergen.edu](mailto:mredmond@bergen.edu). (If using external email, you must include your name and the specific course and section information for me to reply.)

#### **Twitter: DrRedmond**

Follow me on Twitter for quick announcements and updates, e.g., I have to change an office hour at the last minute, I am delayed for class, etc. (I don't respond to DMs or Tweets on this account. I use it solely for quick communication with students. If you need to reach me use WebCT email.) If you need to reach me use WebCT email.) If you have trouble finding me using Twitter's Find People tool, use the search link at the bottom of every Twitter page.

#### **Phone: (201) 689-7074**

Although I do return voice mails, I only do so when in my office on campus. You can reach me more quickly by email.

#### **Departmental Office: A-328, Pitkin Education Center, (201) 447-7167.**

If you need to drop something off for me you can do so either in the departmental office or the Ender Hall Administrative Office (E123).

## Course Description

**PHR-103 Basic Logic** is an introduction to the basic principles and methods of correct reasoning. Topics of discussion include the relationship between logic and language; the distinction between formal and informal logic; the detection and avoidance of formal and informal fallacies; the formulation and evaluation of deductive arguments; the differences between traditional and modern (symbolic) logic; and the nature, scope, and limits of inductive reasoning. PHR-103 is the first course in a two semester sequence in logic, and is a General Education Humanities elective.

**Student Learning Goals:** As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to:

1. identify and summarize the basic problems, principles, and methods of logical reasoning;
2. detect and avoid fallacious reasoning;
3. formulate and evaluate deductive arguments;
4. apply the principles and methods of logical reasoning to the analysis of texts, to the conduct of scientific inquiry, and to the problems of everyday life; and
5. use language, both in speaking and writing, with logical rigor and clarity.

In pursuit of the above objectives, the course is based on a standard introductory text on deductive and inductive logic; techniques of scholarly research and writing are reviewed; students are given the opportunity and are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions, and students are required to do a substantial amount of expository and critical writing in response to the material presented in the course.

## Course Prerequisites

There are no course prerequisites. Students with documented learning disabilities should discuss any concerns about course requirements with one of the college's learning disabilities counselors and with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. A wide variety of services are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Specialized Services (OSS). For further information, go to the OSS website: [www.bergen.edu/oss](http://www.bergen.edu/oss) or visit the office in S153.

## Required Course Materials – This section is really important!

For the course you will need the text: Patrick J. Hurley, **A Concise Introduction to Logic** (Cengage, 2008), along with an access code for a password protected site AND CD that contains an interactive tutorial. **You cannot complete the course without the access code.**

The Hurley text is actually meant for a two semester sequence, and is rather expensive. Here are your two best choices to control costs:

1. An order for a customized (and cheaper paperback) edition of this text has been placed in the College Bookstore. It comes bundled with the access code and the CD that you'll need. The ISBN number is: 0495784435.
2. Alternatively, you can purchase the access code, the CD, and copies of individual chapters of the text at: <http://bit.ly/UqODM>. If you decide to go this route, don't forget that you **MUST** purchase the access code and CD. They are listed **under** Study Tools at the **bottom** of the page.

Choice #1 is best for students who prefer to have a hard copy of the text in a traditional format and may be a bit cheaper than choice #2.

Finally, there are several texts used by the College in Basic Logic. Use the ISBN number above to make sure you get the right one.

### Technology and Learning Resources

This course makes use of three required technology resources.

1. A WebCT course virtual home. WebCT is the College's online course management system. This site will serve as our virtual home for the semester for announcements and communications. You are expected to regularly check this WebCT site for announcements, and you are expected to read your WebCT email. You can access WebCT at <http://dl.bergen.edu>. If you've used WebCT before, use the user credentials you already have. At the end of this student guide, you'll find [more detailed information](#) about how to log on for your first time. The college creates your WebCT account overnight the day after you register for the first time.
2. A multimedia CD. This CD comes bundled with your course text or purchased online (see above). Do not lose it. It provides tutorials and many practice problems that will help you master what we study in class. The content of the CD is integrated in the CengageNOW website, but you may find it easier to use the CD by itself.
3. The CengageNOW website. You will use this password protected website extensively through the semester to take exams, quizzes, submit homework. It also contains extensive learning resources that will support your study of logic. To get an access code to this site (which you must have), you must purchase a new copy of the customized Hurley textbook or purchase an access code online, as explained above.

A brief explanation of how to access your CengageNOW website follows.

- a) Go to <http://www.ilrn.com/ilrn>, and follow the instructions there for creating your account.
- b) Enter you access code. This is the access code that came with your textbook.

*To get the required  
access code, you  
MUST purchase a  
new copy of the text.*

*If you have trouble  
creating your account,  
call 1-888-281-2990.  
Tell them you are using  
the "old" server.*

- c) Search for Bergen Community College. It's listed under "Community Colleges."
- d) Complete your personal information.
- e) You'll need to provide the course key, which is [E-YBGBAW5DF4TFK](#).

Because this course makes use of online sites, you must have regular, reliable access to the Internet. You will also need access to a computer with a sound card and speakers (or a jack for ear buds or headphone). Almost all computers today are suitably equipped.

If you have questions, post them in the Questions topic in the Discussions area.

## Our Approach

*Note: Unlike many courses, the material covered in this course is sequential, with each part building upon the previous part. Specific logic skills gained in one segment course will be used and extended in the next. It is impossible to skip parts of the course and be successful later on.*

Generally, each week, I will make one or more reading assignments in the text. After completing the reading, you will then complete the tutorial on the CD. Then turn to the homework on the CengageNOW site. You'll have five attempts over several days to complete the homework. If you encounter difficulty, make sure you've completed the reading AND the tutorial. On the Cengage website, you'll find short videos on difficult concepts and self-tests that will pinpoint exactly what you must study more. Questions can be posted in the Discussions area for the course in WebCT. At various points, you'll complete exams online on the CengageNOW website.

Not all online courses are the same. Some are completely self-paced, and some are structured learning communities in which the class moves through the course at a pace determined by the instructor. This course might best described as a modified, self-paced approach. Assignments and exams for the entire course will be made available very early. This allows you to complete them as quickly as you might like. My experience is that some students can move very quickly through the material, while others need a more deliberate approach. However, assignments and exams all have fixed due dates after which you cannot complete them without significant grade penalty. So, although you can move as quickly as you are able to, you cannot move more slowly than the class.

Below is a rough calendar of course material. You'll find the specific dates for assignments and exams on the CengageNOW website. **Note that this calendar is tentative and subject to change depending upon the progress of the class.**

Week(s)	Topic	Student Learning Objectives
1	Introduction to the Course, including how to use WebCT and the CengageNOW website.	
2,3,4	Unit 1 – Basic Concepts Course Text, Sections 1.1 – 1.6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

5,6,7,8	Unit 2 – Propositional Logic, Truth Tables Course Text, Sections 6.1 – 6.5	1, 2, 3, 4
9,10	Unit 3 – Propositional Logic, Natural Deduction Course Text, Sections 7.1 – 7.4	1, 2, 3, 4
10,11,12	Unit 4 – Propositional Logic, Natural Deduction, Conditional and Indirect Proof Course Text, Sections 7.5 – 7.6	1, 2, 3, 4
13,14,15	Unit 5 – Informal Fallacies Course Text, Sections 3.1 – 3.5	1, 2, 4, 5

### Grading Policy

Exams	60%
Homework	40%

Exams will be taken online, and homework will be submitted online. The purpose of the homework is to help you prepare for the exams. You will be allowed several attempts to complete homework, AND homework will be graded. You are expected to work alone on exams. IP addresses are logged as a security measure, and I reserve the right to give exams through the College's Testing Center.

### Make Up Policy

The availability period for exams is usually a week. Since exams can be taken over a period of several days, there are no extensions of due dates or make-ups for exams not taken.

### Homework Policy

The following homework policy is subject to revision based upon our experience as a class this semester:

Homework assigned one week will generally be due Sunday evening at 11 pm. You can submit homework up to seven days late, but your grade will be reduced by 10% each day late. No forgiveness is given for homework completed as time expires.

Using all your five attempts at the last moment to guess at answers isn't a good strategy. If you run into problems, it is too late to get help.

As already explained, you'll generally complete homework on the CengageNOW website. You'll be allowed several attempts to complete the homework (you don't have to do it all at one time), and the system is set to give you feedback on incorrect answers. Correct answers on each attempt will be preserved so that you can focus upon the problems you got wrong on subsequent attempts.

If you are conscientious and do your homework, it is inevitable that you'll earn a high homework average, which contributes significantly to your final course average. Finally, you'll discover that the homework will help you immensely on the exams!

### Student Email Addresses

If I need to communicate with you, I will use the WebCT course email system. This means that you will not see email from me unless you log onto WebCT and you are expected to do this regularly (several times a week) and to respond to email.

### Student Support Services

The Tutoring Center ( <a href="#">online tutoring services</a> are available)	Room S-118	201-447-7908
The Writing Center	Room C-110	201-447-7136
<a href="#">The Office of Specialized Services</a> (for students with documented disabilities)	Room S-153	201-612-5270
The <a href="#">Sidney Silverman Library</a> – Reference Desk	Room L-226	201-447-7436

## Web Enhanced Course Entry Information

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To enter go to: [www.bergen.edu](http://www.bergen.edu) and use the quick links dropdown box in the upper right and select “webct.” Enter your username and password. You must log into your course using the following guidelines for your username and password. ***This is the only way you can enter your course – do not change your username or password or you will not be able to log in.***

- Your **username** is the same username as your Webadvisor username. If you are uncertain of your username, go to <http://go.bergen.edu>, click on Webadvisor for Students, then click on “What’s my ID?” and follow the prompts.
- Your **password** will be up to the first 8 letters of your last name and the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number – up to 12 characters - (no hyphens, capital letters, spaces or apostrophes)  
Example: John **O'Shaughnessy** & SS# 107-35-**1234** = **oshaughn1234**

Unless you are on campus, you are responsible for providing your own Internet access and email account throughout the course. Please refer to the “Technical Requirements” at: <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/482.asp>.

### Important Troubleshooting Information

1. If you are unable to access some parts of your course, check your Browser from the “Check Browser” Link on the login page and follow the instructions.
2. A frequently reported issue with login to WebCT is the use of pop-up blockers and firewalls. You must adjust both of these to “trust content” from our WebCT website: <http://dl.bergen.edu> – for a step-by-step document on how to adjust your Internet Explorer pop-up blocker options, please go to the Student Support Page, linked on the WebCT login page, or go directly to <http://www.bergen.edu/pages/523.asp>. If you need assistance with adjusting your firewall, please contact either your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or the provider of your firewall software/hardware. **If you still cannot login to WebCT, please call the 24/7 WebCT Helpdesk, toll free at 866-479-0733.**