



PHIL 1503

Logic & Practical Reasoning

Course Information

Instructor:	Mark Herman
Meeting Days & Time:	Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Meeting Place:	Humanities & Social Sciences Building, Room 2026
Instructor's Office:	Humanities & Social Sciences Building, Room 4029
Office Hours:	MWF 2:00-2:50 (or by appointment)
Email:	MHerman@AState.edu (replies within 2 business days)
Cell Phone:	(347) 241-1886 (text for quickest reply)

Textbook and Materials

Required Texts:	<p>1. <i>Reason Better</i> by David Manley. On Top Hat (online)</p> <p>2. <i>Doing Practical Ethics</i> by Ian Stoner & Jason Swartwood (Oxford University Press)</p> <p>3. <i>Noggin: My Brain on Ethics</i> by EthicsOPS. Online</p>
Additional Materials:	Posted on Blackboard

Course Description

Topics include identification, evaluation, and construction of logical arguments, recognition of deductive and inductive thought, and detection of fallacies in everyday reasoning.

Purpose and Goals/Learning Outcomes

General Education (GE):

Goal: This course satisfies the following general education goal for the arts and humanities: Developing a life-long appreciation of the arts and humanities. Students should develop an appreciation for the arts and humanities. They should be aware of the role of art and literature in human civilization and contemporary culture.

Student Learning Outcomes: Expected GE student learning outcomes are that students should be able to recognize works of literature or fine art and place them in their historical, cultural, and social contexts, and interpret works of fine art or literature.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes: GE Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed through the exercises and exams.

Philosophy Program (PP):

PP Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will understand central issues and theories in philosophy (from among the major areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and value theory).
2. Students will be able to analyze and explain complicated ideas.
3. Students will be able to analyze arguments.
4. Students will be able to evaluate arguments.

Course Requirements

<u>Assessments</u>	<u>% (of Total Grade)</u>
Exams (3 exams, 23.4% each)	70%
Assignments	20%
Attendance	10%
Excellent Class Participation	Up to 5% Bonus

Exams (70% of final grade; 3 exams):

Exam on *Reasoning Better* (24%)

Exam on *Doing Practical Ethics* (23%)

Exam on *Noggin* (23%)

The *Noggin* “knowledge tests” or exams are contained in the *Noggin* online “course.” They appear at the end of each “lesson” or chapter (and, in chapter 4, at the end of each subchapter). The exam grades will be curved. The exams grades are averaged together for a single “exam on *Noggin*” grade. There is an exam at the end of each of the following chapters: 1-3, 5-7 (i.e., 6 exams total). For chapter 4, you will select 3 subsections and accompanying exams to do. These 3, with 6 from chapter 1-3, 5-7, make for 9 exams total.

Assignments (20%):

Half (10%) regards *Reason Better* (TopHat) and is based upon the TopHat *Gradebook* score. This consists of 10 items total. 7 items are based upon the 10 reading questions within each chapter (for chapters 1-5, 8, and 9). For these items, 90% of the score is based upon the completion of questions (i.e., complete/incomplete), and 10% of the score is based upon correctness (this allows for a score of, for instance, 9.7 to inform you that you got 7 of the 10 reading questions correct). 3 items are take home quizzes (Ch. 1&2, Ch. 3&4, Ch. 5&8). These items are scored entirely based upon correctness.

The other half (10%) regards the *Noggin* “lessons” or chapters for Ch. 1-3 and 5-7, and for Ch. 4, 3 of the subsections, for a total of 9 items. They are graded complete/incomplete.

Attendance (10%):

Excused absences require official documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note). Further information in the *Policies* section of this syllabus.

Class Participation (Up to 5% Bonus):

Excellent class participation is eligible for up to a 5% bonus—i.e., up to 5 bonus points added to your (sub-total) final grade (which is out of 100 points). Usually, only a few students receive 3 or more bonus points, and around five students receive 1-2 bonus points. In short, a lack of class participation does not cost you points; however, excellent class participation can earn you significant extra points.

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Notice Concerning the Possibility of Interruption of Instruction Due to an Emergency

While it is the goal of Arkansas State University to offer face-to-face classes for its on-campus programs, the university recognizes that in the event of emergency it may become necessary to shift courses into hybrid or online delivery modes. The recent experience of the COVID-19 pandemic made this necessary; however, the same need to shift could be the product of other natural or civil disasters, and could be for short or extended periods of time. To prepare, this means nearly every course offered will have a component where high-speed, reliable internet access is essential to course success. Other technology such as web cameras or specific software may be required by instructors to facilitate remote instruction (please consult the A-State Internet and Technical Services website for more details). Students are strongly encouraged to secure broadband access they can use for the semester either on or off campus. In the event of the need to change the mode of instruction, A-State will endeavor to keep as many on-campus facilities and support areas open as possible dependent on the circumstances of the emergency. **Please remember, all official notifications are made through your official A-State email account, the university website, and Blackboard Learn. You are responsible for checking your university email to ensure you receive the latest updates regarding this course.**

Policies

Technology

Phones: ***Cell phones must be put away*** whenever class is in session.

Laptops: Using laptops, computers, and other devices for note taking is **generally discouraged** and ***not allowed unless permission is granted.***

Discussions & Climate

Our discussions (both in class and on the discussion boards) should take the form of a mutual exploration and consideration of the issues. This often involves presenting arguments that are not necessarily a reflection of one's personal views or opinions; please take this to heart with respect to your own contributions and your views of others' contributions. An important part of philosophical practice involves "throwing ideas against the wall to see if they stick." If it would make you more comfortable, feel free to preface such contributions with phrases like, "for the sake of argument..." I will certainly be making many, many comments that do not reflect my

personal views. Remember that our objective is to explore the issues raised and prompted by the material.

Challenging arguments and positions presented by others is an important part of philosophical practice; however, our debates are not personal contests, so be sure to refrain from obnoxiousness. Passion for the subject matter is wonderful, but please be mindful not to interrupt other students, talking-out without being called upon, etc.

The nature of the class' subject matter is such that some of the material and/or discussion may be found personally, ethically, and/or religiously offensive. If you anticipate that this will be a problem, or if it does, in fact, become so, please speak with me or contact me via email. While participation in class discussions is generally mandatory, you are not required to participate on occasions in which an issue is particularly sensitive for you, or you are particularly uncomfortable. However, if this is a frequent occurrence you must speak with me or contact me via email.

Part of the college experience is learning how to engage in passionate debate without failing to be civil. Students are expected to engage in civil discourse about complex and emotional topics in a manner that is respectful of others. **Respectful behavior towards your classmates is absolutely mandatory!**

If a question occurs to you, just raise your hand and ask it. Usually, other students will have the same question that you have (and may be shy about asking it), so you will benefit others as well as yourself by asking it. The more active you are in class, the faster you will learn and the more interesting you will find the course.

Some folks have a tendency to interrupt others, presume they can make comments without having to be called upon, etc. Sometimes this simply comes from enthusiastic engagement with the material, and such enthusiasm is great. Sometimes it comes from unequitable presumptions. Regardless, please be mindful of respectful behavior towards your classmates.

If anyone has any questions, concerns, etc. regarding the above matters, please speak with me or contact me via email.

Attendance

Late/Absent: If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to check for assignments and announcements (in the first few slides of) that day's Lecture Slides (posted on Blackboard within 24 hours after class).

Leaving Early: Leaving early (without granted permission) nullifies that day's attendance and counts as an absence.

Attendance: (as per Student Handbook): for 1000/2000–level courses, a failing grade can be given if the student misses more than twice the number of weekly meetings. Attendance is required and expected.

Students who miss a class session should expect to make up missed work or receive a failing grade on missed work. It is the practice of Arkansas State University to allow students to participate in university sponsored academic or athletic events, even when those events cause them to be absent from class. Students participating in university sponsored academic or athletic events will not have those days counted against their available absences and will be given reasonable opportunities to make up missed assignments and exams.

Students enrolled in freshman or sophomore level courses numbered 1000 or 2000 may during the spring and fall semester miss no more than twice the number of lectures, recitations, laboratory sessions, or other regularly scheduled class activities that would normally be scheduled during a week. Students who miss more than the maximum number of freshman or sophomore level classes may be assigned a grade of “FN” for the course. Students who may be assigned a grade of “FN” in a course because of excessive absences may withdraw from the course without penalty before the deadline for dropping an individual course. In determining whether excessive absences should result in a failing grade, consideration shall be given to the maturity and class standing of the student, the quality of academic work being accomplished by the student, and extenuating circumstances related to such absences.

Students must utilize their available absences for any cause which requires them to miss class including, but not being limited to, vacation, illness, emergency, or religious observances. Students who are aware that they will have absences during a term should ensure that they do not exceed the absences available.

Inclement Weather Policy: Information on campus closure can be found on the A-State webpage, KASU, and local radio and television stations. If inclement weather prevents you from coming to campus and campus is not closed, please email me or call me at (347) 241-1886.

Makeup Work

Makeup work is not available for missed Discussion Boards (though see *Extra Credit*). Whether makeup work is available for exams, projects, and papers will be adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

Equity & Inclusion

Employment/Childcare: In the interest of equity, if you are working during the semester, have childcare responsibilities, or other obligations of this sort, this can be taken into consideration

with respect to matters such as greater leniency with deadlines. To be eligible for such considerations, you must speak with me at the **BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER**.

Other Considerations: Please feel free to speak with me regarding other potential considerations that bear upon equity and inclusion.

Students with Disabilities: If any student has a disability or problem requiring accommodation in order to succeed in the course, please contact me as soon as possible. Confidentiality will be maintained, and every reasonable effort will be made to meet your needs. Any student requiring accommodation must be registered with A-State's Office of Access & Accommodations, 972-3964. If Access & Accommodations recommends that you should be allowed to take exams in their office, it is your responsibility to schedule that exam with them for the same date and time as the exam will be administered to the other students in the class.

Accessibility: Please let me know if any issues arise regarding accessibility or if there is anything that I can do to increase accessibility.

Sexual Misconduct Policy: Arkansas State works to provide a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and university policy prohibit [sexual discrimination](#) (link), which regards sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Sexual discrimination can undermine students' academic success.

If you have been sexually assaulted, you can immediately speak with someone at NEARK's [Family Crisis Center](#)'s 24-hour Sexual Assault Line: **(870) 933-9449**. Reports to law enforcement can be made to the University Police Department: **(870) 972-2093**

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, support can be provided from the [Counseling Center](#) and [Pack Support](#). The Student Health Center provides [Sexual Assault resources](#). Alleged violations can be reported non-confidentially to the [Title IX and Institutional Equity office](#). It provides local, state and national resources for counseling, law enforcement, medical treatment, financial assistance, and legal services.

Title IX and Child Maltreatment Reporting: As an Arkansas State University faculty member, it is my responsibility and my privilege to contribute to the creation of a safe learning environment for all ASU students. Because of my position as a member of the A-State faculty, I am also a mandatory reporter for purposes of Title IX and the Arkansas Child Maltreatment Act. I want you to be able to share information related to your life experiences with me or in class during this course. However, I also want you to understand that: (1) under the ASU System Child Maltreatment Reporting Policy, I must immediately report known or suspected child maltreatment by contacting both the Child Abuse Hotline and the University Policy Department; and (2) under the A-State Title IX Grievance Procedure, I must report to the A-State Title IX Coordinator incidences of sexual discrimination that I observe or that are reported to me. For purposes of Title IX, sexual discrimination includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking,

domestic violence, and dating violence occurring within the Title IX jurisdiction. Reports of sexual assault, sexual violence, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence will also be reported to law enforcement authorities. You may also report instances of sexual discrimination directly by contacting the A-State at Title IX office or title9@astate.edu.

Educational Equity Statement: A-State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, national origin, religion, marital status, veteran status, genetic information or disability in any of its practices, policies or procedures are not tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, employment, admissions, educational services, programs or activities which it operates or financial aid. It is the responsibility of all departments and all personnel, supervisory and non-supervisory, to see that this policy is implemented throughout the university. When applicable, students are encouraged to follow the Student Rights Grievance Procedure outlined in the Student Handbook. Reports can also be submitted to institutionalequity@astate.edu. Incidents involving claims of disability-based discrimination should be reported to Access and Accommodations Services using their Grievance Process Form. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity, 870-680-4161 and the Administration Building, Room 104.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism (the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one's own) is a serious offense against academic integrity which could result in failure for the paper or assignment, failure for the course, and/or expulsion from Arkansas State University. Plagiarism usually involves passing off the work, words, or ideas of others as your own without giving proper credit. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

Cheating is an act of dishonesty with the intention of obtaining and/or using information in a fraudulent manner.

For further information, including specifics about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, see A-State's Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.astate.edu/a/student-conduct/student-standards/handbook-home.dot>

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Grading

Grade	Requirements
A	90+%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	< 60%

Percentages for grading are as follows:

<u>Assessments</u>	<u>% (of Total Grade)</u>
Exams (3 exams: 24% + 23% + 23%)	70%
Assignments	20%
Attendance	10%
Excellent Class Participation	Up to 5% Bonus

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Class Schedule

*****Changes Possible*****

*****Announced in Class & Lecture Slides*****

Date	Class #	Assignment Due (for this class)	Class Topic
W – Jan 11	01	-	Introduction & Introductions
F – Jan 13	02	Discussion Board (DB): “BFF”	Reasoning I
M – Jan 16	-	<i>No Class (MLK Day)</i>	<i>No Class (MLK Day)</i>
W – Jan 18	03	-	Reasoning II

Unit 1: Reason Better (TopHat)			
Date	Class #	Assignment Due (for this class)	Class Topic
F – Jan 20	04	Read: <i>Reasoning Better (RB)</i> , Chapter 1	<i>Reasoning Better (RB)</i> , Chapter 1 (part 1)
M – Jan 23	05	Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 1	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 1 (part 2)
W – Jan 25	06	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 2 Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 2	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 2
F – Jan 27	07	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 3 Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 3	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 3 (part 1)
M – Jan 30	08	TAKE HOME QUIZ ON CH. 1 & 2	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 3 (part 2)
W – Feb 1	09	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 4 (part 1)	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 4 (part 1)
F – Feb 3	10	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 4 (part 2)	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 4 (part 2)
M – Feb 6	11	Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 4	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 4 (part 3)
W – Feb 8	12	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 5 Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 5	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 5 (part 1)
F – Feb 10	13	TAKE HOME QUIZ ON CH. 3 & 4	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 5 (part 2)
M – Feb 13	14	-	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 5 (part 3)
W – Feb 15	15	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 8 Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 8	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 8 (part 1)
F – Feb 17	16	-	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 8 (part 2)
M – Feb 20	17	Read: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 9 Reading questions: <i>RB</i> , Ch. 9	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 9 (part 1)
W – Feb 22	18	TAKE HOME QUIZ ON CH. 5 & 8	<i>RB</i> : Ch. 9 (part 2)
F – Feb 24	19	Recommended: Question Pool Study Guide	Review for Exam
M – Feb 27	20	Study for EXAM on REASONING BETTER	EXAM on REASONING BETTER

Unit 2: Doing Practical Ethics			
Date	Class #	Assignment Due (for this class)	Class Topic
W – Mar 1	21	Read: <i>Doing Practical Ethics</i> (DPE), Ch. 1 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 1	<i>Doing Practical Ethics</i> (DPE), Ch. 1
F – Mar 3	22	Read: DPE, Ch. 2 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 2	DPE, Ch. 2
M – Mar 6	23	Read: DPE, Ch. 3 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 3	DPE, Ch. 3
W – Mar 8	24	Read: DPE, Ch. 4 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 4	DPE, Ch. 4
F – Mar 10	25	Read: DPE, Ch. 5 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 5	DPE, Ch. 5
M – Mar 13	26	Read: DPE, Ch. 6 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 6	DPE, Ch. 6
W – Mar 15	27	Read: DPE, Ch. 7 Odd numbered Exercises: DPE Ch. 7	DPE, Ch. 7
F – Mar 17	28	-	Doing Practical Ethics
Mar 20-24	-	<i>No Class (Spring Break)</i>	<i>No Class (Spring Break)</i>
M – Mar 27	29	Recommended: Question Pool Study Guide	Review for Exam
W – Mar 29	30	Study for EXAM on DOING PRCT ETHICS	EXAM on DOING PRACTICAL ETHICS

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Unit 3: Noggin

Date	Class #	Assignment Due (for this class)	Class Topic
F – Mar 31	31	Read: <i>Noggin</i> , 1 st half of Ch. 1	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 1 (part 1)
M – Apr 3	32	Read: <i>Noggin</i> , 2 nd half of Ch. 1	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 1 (part 2)
W – Apr 5	33	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 1 Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 2	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 2
F – Apr 7	34	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 2 Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 3	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 3
M – Apr 10	35	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 3 Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 4.0, 4.A-4.C, 4.10	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 4
W – Apr 12	36	Knowledge Test/Exams on Nog, Ch. 4.A-4.C Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 5	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 5
F – Apr 14	37	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 5 Read: <i>Noggin</i> , 1 st half of Ch. 6	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 6 (part 1)
M – Apr 17	38	Read: <i>Noggin</i> , 2 nd half of Ch. 6	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 6 (part 2)
W – Apr 19	39	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 6 Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 7 (part 1)	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 7 (part 1)
F – Apr 21	40	Read: <i>Noggin</i> , Ch. 7 (part 2)	<i>Noggin</i> , Chapter 7 (part 2)
M – Apr 24	41	Knowledge Test/Exam on Noggin, Ch. 7	<i>Noggin</i> , Wrap Up