

PHI 223: Logic I – Critical Thinking
Professor: Dr. Katherine Sweet
Email: ksweet@flagler.edu

This 3-credit hour course meets MWF 9-9:50 am in Kenan 360.

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays 12 – 2, Kenan 511

TR by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the relationship of language and logic, with an equal emphasis on informal and formal logic. We will be involved in the identification, construction, evaluation of arguments, with an eye to the practical application of logical techniques in our thinking, research, and writing. This course is highly recommended for students enrolled in the Law Program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Theory & Method: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of methods of logic (assessed in homework, quizzes, and exams).
2. Critical Writing: Students will be able to develop, delineate, and defend conclusions based in critical thinking skills expressed in writing. (assessed in argument reconstructions)
3. Critical Thought and Oral Expression: Students will be able to develop, delineate, and defend conclusions about philosophy based in critical thinking skills expressed in oral communication. (assessed in Discussion)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Arguments In Context: An Introduction to Critical Thinking
By Thaddeus Robinson

The textbook is completely FREE to read, just follow this link:

<https://open.muhsen.org/pub/arguments-in-context/front-matter/title-page/>

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: 20% of total grade

Attendance is required, and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION in class is required to receive credit for attending class.

If you are using electronic devices without engaging verbally during class, then I will assume that you are not using the electronic devices to take notes, and you will receive an absence for the day.

Please DO NOT email me about absences, as there is no difference in policy between an un-planned absence and a planned absence, unexcused absence or excused absence. The only exception is Flagler-mandated sports absences, and these require written documentation by the coach FOR EACH ABSENCE.

Homework and Quizzes: 20% of total grade

Each week you will be assigned short, quick, fun homework. Quizzes will be timed and administered via Canvas. Quizzes will be due 2-5 days after all the contents of the quiz material have been covered in class. Quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. A majority, of weeks will contain quizzes.

Argument Reconstructions: 30% of total grade

You will be expected to write several short argument reconstructions, no more than 1-2 pages long. Reconstructing and evaluating an argument from a text is essential to understanding it and ultimately being able to evaluate it. You will receive a detailed prompt for each assignment. The final argument reconstruction is the Argument Project – you will spend several weeks reconstructing an argument on a current legal case.

Exams: 30% of total grade

You will take two exams in this class, both on Canvas using Honorlock. 75-80% of all exam questions will be directly taken from quizzes.

CLASS POLICIES:

Often, discussions may be on controversial topics. This does not license anyone to yell at another student or be in any way rude or

ill-willed toward another student (or to the professor). I reserve the right to ask anyone to leave at any time for being rude or disruptive.

Late work is accepted up to the end of the semester on a case by case basis, with points deducted for each day the assignment is late. Once a Canvas quiz is closed, it may only be made up by taking it orally in person.

If you need me for any reason, please always feel free to come to my office hours. If you want to make an appointment for a meeting about philosophy outside of normal office hours, which I strongly encourage (and which will be used as extra credit for borderline grades), please email me with the possible times for me to choose from, as well as a reason for meeting. If you have non-philosophical questions about an assignment and cannot come to normal office hours, please first submit those questions via email to me. Many of the questions about assignment details are already answered on the prompts or in the syllabus, and those that are not can often be answered via email without a formal meeting. If you email me, please be clear and concise about your question or concern. Expect 48 business hours for an email response. I only respond to work emails during normal work hours.

ChatGPT and all other large language learning AI tools are prohibited for ALL assignments in this course. If you log into an AI tool or any other technological framework and use ideas or content from that tool, you will be reported to Academic Affairs and given a 0.

The syllabus (especially course schedule) is subject to change. Changes and updates of the syllabus will be announced in class and on Canvas. You are responsible for keeping track of any of the changes in course assignments and schedule.

**UNIVERSAL COURSE POLICIES
FLAGLER COLLEGE**

Grading Scale:

“A” = Excellent		“B” = Above Avg.		“C” = Average		“D” = Below Avg.	
A	100-93	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A-	92-90	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-60
		B-	82-80	C-	72-70	F	59-0

Class Attendance Policy:

(Faculty have the discretion to determine their own attendance policy – specific course syllabi should state this policy and its consequences. The College-wide policy is below.)

From the Catalog: Flagler College holds all members of our community to the highest academic standards in its pursuit of academic excellence. Regular attendance at classes, laboratories and examinations is fundamental to this commitment. Students are, therefore, expected to attend class as part of their personal responsibility as members of this community.

Individual professors will establish specific attendance policies for each class and publish them in the syllabus at the beginning of every academic semester. Professors must also discuss with students on the first day of class the relationship between attendance, interaction in the classroom, and evaluation in specific courses. Students have the responsibility to take appropriate action to make up missed work where permitted by the professor's policy. Absences for official college events, for example athletic or club academic travel, must be appropriately documented. Flagler College deeply values and supports the required participation of students in formally sanctioned Flagler College activities. Instructors will provide such students with reasonable accommodations for completing missed exams, quizzes, and other required work. Absences for such events themselves should also not have a detrimental effect on students' grades. All absences should be discussed with the professor in advance when possible.

Academic Honesty:

In keeping with its Core Values - particularly its commitments to “Citizenship with Integrity” and “Transformative Learning” - Flagler College affirms the value of academic honesty and requires all students to adhere to the highest standards of integrity in their academic work. Students are entrusted to be honest in every phase of their academic life and to present as their own work only that which is genuinely theirs. Cheating, plagiarism, violation of test conditions, complicity in dishonest behavior, or other falsification of academic work is a serious breach of College expectations and is subject to immediate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is defined as any attempt to represent the work of someone or something else – that is to say, a person, computer program, artificial intelligence, or otherwise - as one's own original work. This includes the appropriation of the language, thoughts, or ideas – either literally or in paraphrase – without appropriate notation of the source and in such fashion as to imply that the work is one's own original work. To this end, Flagler College subscribes to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com), a web-based plagiarism detection service which enables professors to determine if a paper has been documented properly. But Turnitin.com findings are not the only means of determining plagiarism, nor is evidence from that service necessary to substantiate an incident.

Fabrication is defined as the use of created or invented information or research for the purpose of deceiving an instructor or other College personnel. Bribery is defined as the promising, offering, giving,

receiving, or soliciting of any materials, items, or services of value to influence the judgment or conduct of College personnel.

Misrepresentation is defined as giving false information to any College representative with the intent to deceive or gain an unfair advantage. This may include using computer files generated by another person and submitting the information to an instructor as your own work (unless expressly allowed by the instructor).

Instructors should explain to students what constitutes academic dishonesty in relation to particular course requirements. Instructors should also aim to ensure that examinations and quizzes are administered in a fashion that discourages dishonesty. But explicit prohibition of particular forms of academic dishonesty is not a necessary condition of incidents being reported or sanctions levied; academic integrity is a cornerstone of our academic community, and ignorance is not an excuse.

A student guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to academic sanction for the course in which the incident took place as determined by the Instructor of Record in the course, ranging from Warning to a grade of “F” or “WF” in the overall course. Additional penalty may come at the Administrative level for serious infractions as determined by Academic Affairs, or for repeat offenders – up to and including expulsion from the College. The official actions of the College may be either academic in nature or both academic and disciplinary.

Statement on Disability Accommodations: Flagler College is dedicated to creating an inclusive campus. If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, in order to fully participate in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), under the direction of Philip A. Pownall, by visiting Library 211, Emailing: disabilityservices@flagler.edu, or calling 904-819-6460.

Title IX Statement: Flagler College seeks to provide an environment that is free from harassment, and sexual violence. If you have experienced any of these, we encourage you to report the incident. If you inform me of an issue through discussion, private conversation, or a written assignment, I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of the College’s Title IX Coordinator, Dr. Jess Kobryn. If you would like to talk to Dr. Kobryn directly, she can be reached at 904-826-8553 or jkobryn@flagler.edu. For more information and other reporting options, please refer to the Title IX webpage at www.flagler.edu/title-ix

In addition, a non-reporting option is to contact our Counseling Services Office, as any conversation will be kept confidential. They can be contacted at counseling@flagler.edu or 904-819-6305.

Notice of Non-Discrimination: Flagler College is committed to diversity, inclusion, and pursuit of higher education with adherence to high ethical standards. It is the policy of Flagler College not to discriminate in admission, treatment, or access to, or employment in, its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other protected characteristic.

If you are being or have been discriminated against, please contact Dr. Kobryn at jkobryn@flagler.edu or 904-826-8553.

The Learning Resource Center offers free tutoring for all Flagler College students. One-on-one help is available in math, economics, business, accounting, writing, reading, study skills, the natural sciences, French and Spanish. Students can access <http://www.flagler.edu/LRC> in order to make an appointment.