

PHI 101

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction

- Welcome to PHI 101, Introduction to Philosophy
- About Stephen
- Texts
- Course Requirements
- Syllabus – Points of Interest
- Website – <http://seschmid.org>, <http://seschmid.org/teaching.html>
- Email Policy

Questions

- For how many students is this your first year in college?
- How many have plans to transfer to a “comprehensive” college?
- Has anyone taken a philosophy course before?
- How many have computers at home?
- How many are familiar with computer programs: word processing, etc.?
- What is this thing called “philosophy”?

How To Succeed

- How to Read
 - Three Time Rule
- How to Take Notes
 - Supplement vs. Full
- How to Study
 - Three hours per class hour
 - Daily, Weekly Reviews

Argument Worksheet

1. An argument is a collection of propositions with one proposition, the conclusion, following from the other propositions, the premises. Inference is a process of arriving at a conclusion by means of other propositions and the relationship they bear to each other.
2. **DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS:** Arguments in which the arguer maintains that the argument is valid. The arguer also hopes that the argument is sound.
3. **VALIDITY:** An argument is valid if and only if given the truth of its premises, the conclusion must follow. Stated another way, a valid argument is one in which it is impossible for the conclusion to be false and the premises true.

Argument Worksheet

4. Two ways for a deductive argument to go wrong: Either (i) an argument will have false premises, or (ii) the conclusion can fail to follow from true premises.
5. **INVALID ARGUMENTS:** An invalid argument is one in which the conclusion does not follow from the premises.
6. **SOUNDNESS:** A sound argument is one in which both the premises are true and the argument is valid.
7. **UNSOUND ARGUMENTS:** An unsound argument is one in which either at least one of the premises is false or the argument is invalid.
8. All sound arguments are valid. Some valid arguments are unsound. All invalid arguments are unsound. Some unsound arguments are valid.

Argument Worksheet

9. **INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS:** Arguments in which the arguer maintains that it is improbable that the conclusion is false given true premises. The premises of inductive arguments are about past instances. The conclusions of inductive arguments make claims about present and future cases based on the past instances stated in the premises. Inductive arguments are not deductively valid. Inductive arguments admit of degrees of strength and weakness.

10. **RATIONAL PERSUASIVENESS:** An argument is rationally persuasive if (i) a person has more reason to believe the premises are true rather than false; (ii) the premises are relevant to the conclusion; and (iii) the premises provide adequate evidence or grounds for the truth of the conclusion (deductively or inductively) given the truth of the premises. Deductively sound arguments are always rationally persuasive.

Argument (a, b)

(a)

1. All teachers have beards.

2. Schmid is a teacher.

valid
unsound

3. Therefore, Schmid has a beard.

(b)

1. All teachers are younger than 30.

2. Schmid is a teacher.

valid
unsound

3. Schmid is younger than 30.

Argument (c, d)

(c)

1. All humans are mortal.

2. Socrates is human.

valid
sound

3. Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

(d)

1. Abortion is wrong.

2. Thus, abortion is wrong.

valid
sound/unsound?

Argument (e, f)

(e)

1. If Socrates is human, then Socrates is mortal.

2. Socrates is human.

valid
sound

3. Socrates is mortal.

(f)

1. All spiders have ten legs.

2. All ten-legged creatures have wings.

valid
unsound

3. All spiders have wings.

Argument (g, h)

(g)

1. If I owned all the gold in Fort Knox, then I would be wealthy.

2. I do not own all the gold in Fort Knox.

 3. Therefore, I am not wealthy.

 invalid
 (all true premises)

(h)

1. Some philosophy professors are wealthy.

2. Schmid is a philosophy professor.

 3. Schmid is wealthy.

 invalid
 (true premises &
 false conclusion)

Argument (i, j)

(i)

1. Some humans teach philosophy.

2. Schmid is a human.

 3. Schmid teaches philosophy.

 invalid
 (all true premises)

(j)

1. No one gets an A in philosophy unless he or she works hard.

2. Waldo works hard.

 3. Waldo gets an A.

invalid

Argument (k)

(k)

1. If one directly kills an innocent, then one commits murder.
2. Abortion directly kills an innocent.
3. Abortion is murder. valid
4. Murder is morally impermissible. sound/unsound?

5. Therefore, abortion is morally impermissible.

Weak and Strong Inductive Arguments

A

1. This herd includes 100 head of cattle.
2. Two randomly selected members of the herd have mad cow disease.

3. Therefore, probably all members of the herd have mad cow disease.

B

1. This herd includes 100 head of cattle.
2. Eighty randomly selected members of the herd have mad cow disease.

3. Therefore, probably all members of the herd have mad cow disease.

Next Class

- Read Weston's *Rulebook for Arguments*, Chs. 1-6 & 10
- Think of an answer to the question, "What is philosophy?"