

PHIL 201: INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC

Spring 2009, Section 01

Time:	11:30-12:50, TF
Place:	Scott Hall 114, College Avenue Campus
Instructor:	Karen Lewis
Email:	kalewis@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Office:	Davison Hall 011, Douglass Campus
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 9:15-11:15 a.m., <i>in the lounge at the Student Activities Center (SAC) & By Appointment</i>

Course Description

This course is an introduction to symbolic logic. Logic is the study of patterns of reasoning, i.e., when is it rational to infer one claim from others? Symbolic (or Formal) Logic approaches these questions using artificial or formal languages, much like the ones used in math. In particular, we will study a powerful artificial language called **First-Order Logic** (FOL) that will allow us to precisely formulate the concepts of proof, truth and valid inference. FOL has been of immense foundational importance to mathematics, philosophy, computer science, linguistics and artificial intelligence, and so through FOL we will be encountering ideas of interest to all of these disciplines. Our study of FOL will focus on using it to represent and evaluate the inferences we normally express in ordinary English and other natural languages. Throughout the course we will rely heavily on the interactive computer software included with the textbook to solidify our study of FOL.

Textbook

The text/software package *Language, Proof and Logic* by Jon Barwise & John Etchemendy

- The text has a webpage that is likely to be useful throughout the course: <http://ggww2.stanford.edu>
- It is available at the bookstore on campus and from [Amazon](#)
Beware: it *cannot* be purchased used. The software requires a license that can only be used for one person and cannot be transferred. We will be using the software extensively.
- In order to be successful in this course, you will have to do the assigned reading and play with the software until you feel comfortable using it.

Website

This course has a sakai site. Class slides, the syllabus, and other resources will be posted on the site. Updates and announcements (such as the reading assignments) will also be posted on the site, so be sure to check it regularly (you will receive an email when there is a new announcement).

Assessment

- **Homework assignments:** You will have 12 short homework assignments, handed out on Fridays and due on Tuesdays by the beginning of class. Homework not submitted by the beginning of class will be considered late.

- **Exams:** In this class, there will be a midterm and a final. The midterm will be in class on **Friday, March 6, 2009**. The final exam will be during the final exam period, in the same classroom, on **Wednesday May 13, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- **20%:** Midterm
- **30%:** Final Exam
- **50%:** Weekly Homework Assignments (each worth 5%, lowest two grades are dropped)

Attendance and Participation

Attendance for this course is not required. However, those who regularly attend class and participate can earn up to 5% extra on their final grade. As such, attendance will be taken every class. Again, no student will be penalized for missing class. But those who miss 0-4 classes all semester will receive 3% extra on their final grade. Regular participation when doing in-class exercises will earn you an extra 2% on your final grade.

Lateness Policy and Make-up exams

Late assignments without appropriate documentation (doctor's note, dean's note etc.) will not be tolerated. Assignments that are 1-3 days late will lose one letter grade; assignments that are 4-6 days late will lose 2 letter grades, and so on (one letter grade for every 3 days). Assignments not submitted by the beginning of class are considered one day late. If you do have a good reason (illness, emergency) and proper documentation, you will not be penalized, but you should try to contact me about making up the work as soon as possible.

Make-up exams for a missed exam will not be given without a letter from a doctor, dean or other appropriate authority. No exceptions.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you want to work on the homework assignments together, that is fine, but you may not simply copy someone else's homework. If you are caught doing so, you will get zero for the assignment (please note that the online grading system has a way of detecting if two students submit the same file). Any form of academic dishonesty on an exam will result in a failing grade for the exam, and will be reported to your dean. If you find yourself struggling with the course, please talk to me before you consider cheating.