

Phil 110: Introduction to Logic

Fall 2013

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Section	01-LEC(38517)
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Website	Blackboard Learn
Office Hours	Weekly Email
Text	Gary Hardegree, <u>Symbolic Logic: A First Course</u> . Available—free!—on Blackboard.

Course description and goals. This course is an introduction to formalizing and evaluating (deductive) arguments. In particular, the course will focus on four modules (these terms will become familiar to you as you progress through the course):

- Translating English sentences into sentential logic.
- Evaluating sentential logic arguments through natural deduction.
- Translating English sentences into predicate logic.
- Evaluating predicate logic arguments through natural deduction.

The first goal in this class is the class-specific goal of becoming proficient at translating and evaluating deductive arguments in sentential and predicate logic. The second goal is broad. Being able to properly evaluate arguments and understand the logical relations between statements is a skill with wide-ranging applications. Arguments appear in many aspects of our lives—not only in philosophy—and the ability to properly evaluate them is a crucial skill for everyone.

Exams. Your grade is calculated from 4 exams, each worth 100 points. Four exams are scheduled before the final exam period. During the final exam period, I will offer two more exams, exams 5 and 6. Exam 5 will be similar to exam 3, and exam 6 will be similar to exam 4. Your grade will be the combination of the best 4 exams. The purpose of exams 5 and 6 is to improve your score and to serve as make-up exams. There is no risk in taking exams 5 and 6.

Aside from exams 5 and 6, there will be no make-up exams, and missed exams will count as a 0. Here's the grading scheme:

Grade Scale

GRADE	POINTS
A	380–400
A-	360–379
B+	340–359
B	320–339
B-	300–319
C+	280–299
C	260–279
C-	240–259
D+	220–239
D	200–219
F	0–199

How to take exams. The exam dates are on the schedule on the last page of this syllabus. On the morning of the exam, I'll post the exam. You'll have all day to do it, and it's open book. When you're done, you'll email it to me as an attachment.

There are some difficulties in getting all of the symbols to come out correctly across different versions of one piece of software (e.g. Microsoft Word). Because of this, there will two options for you to take an exam.

Option 1: This option is preferred. Take a high-resolution picture/scan of your **very nicely** handwritten problems, save (preferably as a pdf, but if you have a nice enough camera phone, you can email me a high-resolution jpg, gif, etc.), and then email it. For this option, you'll have to make sure that whatever you send is absolutely readable. There are scanners available at the Du Bois Library on campus along with people that can assist you with their use.

Option 2: Take the exam on a word processor or spreadsheet program. I've made a properly formatted Google Document for the first exam that I encourage you to use if you choose this option, but again, I encourage you to take Option 1.

As you'll see once we get into the material, the work for this class involves symbols and, once we get into the second and fourth units of the course, proofs with a **very** particular format. All I care is that your symbols show up correctly and that your proofs are formatted the way that they're formatted in the book.

Homework and Doing Well. Along with reading, I will assign homework problems, which are listed on the schedule. These homework problems will neither be collected nor graded. The schedule is there so that you pace yourself. Logic is much like math: **Practicing is crucial to learning and doing well on exams.** Each week, I will create a forum for students to collaboratively work on homework assignments. Please take advantage of these forums. Each student can suggest ways to solve homework problems, which can make the work more fun.

To do well in this class, do the assigned reading, homework, and go through the slides that I post. Just looking at the slides is usually not enough to learn this material. I must stress that doing well at logic requires practice. In addition to doing the assigned problems, feel free to do any others, which you can also ask me questions about.

Also, I will periodically post videos of me solving homework problems. **The videos are not on the schedule—I will let you know when they go up via announcements/emails.**

Office Hours/participation. Every friday **except the first week of class and on exam days,** I want you to email me answering two questions:

- Are you understanding the material?
- Do you think you're going to make it through this class?

Your email can be as simple as "Yes, yes," but use this opportunity to get one-on-one help. This weekly email counts as both participation and as a kind of required office hours. The amount of weekly emails that you send can help your grade (e.g. if you never email me, and you're on a grade cusp, I'll be less likely to bump you up).

Academic honesty. The UMass academic honesty policy can be found here:

• http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/index.php

Academic dishonesty will be punished to the greatest degree that this policy allows. For resources on avoiding plagiarism, see the following:

• <http://www.umass.edu/academichonesty/>

I assume you know what counts as academically dishonest behavior, so any excuse based on ignorance won't be accepted.

Respect for other students. When using the homework forums, please respect your fellow students. Don't put down other students' suggestions.

Blackboard. This class will be conducted through Blackboard Learn. For help with Blackboard, visit this page <http://uma.echelp.org/>.

Schedule. On the next page you'll find a schedule. This is an online course, so the pace is somewhat in your hands. However, I'm going to structure the course as if it were face-to-face, so I'll teach this course as if this were a Tuesday/Thursday course.

Date	Reading	Slide#	Exercises
Module 1			
<i>Week 1</i>			
9.3	None	Syllabus	None
9.5	§§1.1–1.9	2	1A–1C
<i>Week 2</i>			
9.10	§§2.1–2.13	3	2A–2C
9.12	§§3.1–3.5	4	3A–3D
<i>Week 3</i>			
9.17	§§4.1–4.17	5	4A, 4B
9.19	§§4.18–4.23	6	4C
<i>Week 4</i>			
9.24	§§4.24–4.25	7	4D
9.26	EXAM 1	EXAM 1	EXAM 1
Module 2			
<i>Week 5</i>			
10.1	§§5.1–5.5	9	5A
10.3	§§5.6–5.8	10	5B, 5C
<i>Week 6</i>			
10.8	§§5.9–5.10	11	5D, 5E
10.10	§§5.11–5.12	12	5F
<i>Week 7</i>			
10.15	NO CLASS: MONDAY'S SCHEDULE	—	—
10.17	§§5.13–5.14	13	5G(91–96)
<i>Week 8</i>			
10.22	EXAM 2	EXAM 2	EXAM 2
Module 3			
10.24	§§6.1–6.10	15	6A–6D
<i>Week 9</i>			
10.29	§§6.11–6.16	16	6E–6G
10.31	§§6.17–6.20	17	6H–6I
<i>Week 10</i>			
11.5	§§7.1–7.4	18	7A–7B
11.7	§§7.4–7.5	19	7C–7D
<i>Week 11</i>			
11.12	EXAM 3	EXAM 3	EXAM 3
Module 4			
11.14	§§8.1–8.6, 8.13	21	8A, 8B
<i>Week 12</i>			
11.19	§§8.7–8.9	22	8C, 8D
11.21	§§8.10–8.12	23	8E, 8F
<i>Week 13</i>			
11.26	§§8.13	24	8G
11.28	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	—	—
<i>Week 14</i>			
12.3	EXAM 4	EXAM 4	EXAM 4
12.5	REVIEW	REVIEW	REVIEW