

PHILOSOPHY 20300-03
INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC
Fall 2008

Brendan Murday

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Section 03: MWF 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm
Friends 303

Office Hours:

MW 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, and by appt.
Park 235

Course Description:

Philosophy 20300 is an introductory course in symbolic logic. No previous knowledge of logic or philosophy is expected. The course focuses on sentential and predicate logic; we will study translation between English and logical notation, and the evaluation and construction of proofs.

Texts:

Logic & Philosophy: A Modern Introduction, Hausman, Kahane, and Tidman, 10th edition.

Course Requirements:

There will be five exams (including the final) and regular homework assignments. The five exam grades will be weighted as follows: your best exam grade will count 30%, your next best 24%, your third 18%, your fourth 12%, and your lowest exam grade 6%. [The weighting is based on your personal performances, not class averages.] I will assign a number of problems for homework, and I will expect volunteers to say how the problems are solved. The remaining 10% of your grade will be based on your attendance and participation in putting problems on the board and any homework exercises that are collected for a grade. If any homework exercises are collected for a grade, they are due immediately when I ask for them (at the beginning of class) – they will not be accepted later during class or anytime thereafter.

I will use the following grading scale:

A 93-100, A-: 90-92.9, B+: 87-89.9, B: 83-86.9, B-: 80-82.9, C+: 77-79.9,
C: 73-76.9, C-: 70-72.9, D+: 67-69.9, D: 63-66.9, D-: 60-62.9, F: Below 60.

Note that I don't round to the nearest integer; an 89.7 is still a B+.

Blackboard:

As noted above, I will use Blackboard to post your grades and remind you of announcements made in class. When I offer exercises to supplement those in the textbook, they will be available on there, and likewise for any handouts distributed in class. To access Blackboard, go to <http://courses.ithaca.edu>. [Log into Blackboard, not webCT. Blackboard is accessed from the right side of the screen.]

If I need to contact you, I will e-mail you using the e-mail account listed in Homer (that is almost certainly IC account). I will expect that you check that account regularly (either directly, or through e-mail forwarding).

Important Dates:

Wed Aug 27 1st day
Mon Sept 1 no class
Wed Sept 3 last day for add/drop
Wed Sept 17 1st Exam
Wed Sept 17 last day for S/D/F
Wed Oct 8 2nd Exam
Fri Oct 17 no class
Tues Oct 21 midterm grades due
Wed Oct 29 3rd Exam
Fri Nov 7 last day for W
Wed Nov 19 4th Exam
Nov 22-30 thanksgiving break
Fri Dec 12 last day of classes
Mon Dec 15, 4:30 pm 5th Exam

Topics from the text to be covered:

Ch 1: Introduction. (We'll skip over sections 8 & 9)
Ch 2: Symbolizing in Sentential Logic. (We'll skip over sections 8 & 15 and exercise sets 3 & 9)
Ch 3: Truth Tables
Ch 4: Proofs.
Ch 5: Conditional and Indirect Proof.
Ch 7: Predicate Logic Translation. (We'll skip over sections 2,5,6 and exercise sets 2,7,8)
Ch 9: Proofs in Predicate Logic.

Make-Ups:

If an emergency prevents you from taking an exam, you should contact me beforehand (or as promptly as possible). *Without a justified and documented excuse, I will not offer make-ups for any missed quizzes/exams/assignments.*

Attendance:

I won't hold you to a strict attendance policy, but I will warn you (repeatedly) that this class will require your constant attention throughout the semester. Students who let a week slide (or who take a vacation from the homework exercises) frequently never manage to catch up. I will say this several times: parts of this class will seem to some of you to be painfully simple, but almost everyone will find some parts quite difficult. Don't get overconfident – keep up with your homework and attendance. And naturally attendance does factor into the participation component of your grade.

Academic Dishonesty:

I have no rule against collaboration on homework problems; you may work together. BUT I strongly advise you to try all the problems on your own first (and by trying, I mean something considerable – 15 minutes per problem is reasonable). Exams are not collaborative, obviously, and the homework assignments are designed to prepare you for the exams.

Accommodations:

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with documented disabilities on a case by case basis. Students must register with the Office of Academic Support Services and provide appropriate documentation to the college before any academic adjustment will be provided.