

Introductory Logic

Philosophy 110

Spring 2008

Instructor: David Braun
Time and Location: MWF 10:00-10:50 pm, Morey 501
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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment
Course Web Page: <http://www.ling.rochester.edu/~braun/Teaching/110/index.htm>

This course will be dedicated to learning symbolic techniques for evaluating the validity of arguments. We will formulate a symbolic language and learn to translate ordinary English sentences into it. We will then apply precise formal techniques for determining whether the symbolic versions of the arguments are valid.

Textbook

John G. Bennett, *Introductory Logic*. This is a course pack available in the Campus Bookstore. You will need the latest edition.

Required Work

1. Weekly homework assignments (see below for further information).
2. Three midterm examinations. **Tentative dates:** Wednesday, February 13; Wednesday, March 19; and Wednesday, April 9.
3. A final examination. **Definite date:** Wednesday, May 7, 12:30 pm. **No exceptions.**

Homework Assignments

I will assign a set of homework problems once a week. The homework problems will be due *at the beginning of class every Monday*, unless I announce otherwise. *Late homework will not be accepted*. Solutions to homework assignments will be available on the course website (URL given above) shortly after the assignments are handed in. You will need an up-to-date PDF reader (such as the Adobe Reader) to read the solutions. Each homework assignment will be graded on a 5 point scale.

5 = excellent work

4 = good to fair work

3 = some work done on all problems

Homework assignments that are incomplete may receive a lower grade. At the end of the course, I will drop your lowest two homework grades, sum the remaining points, and use the sum in calculating your homework grade. I encourage you to work together on the homework assignments.

Grading

Each exam will be graded on a 100-point scale.

1. Homework assignments: 10%
2. Midterm exams: 60% (20%each)
3. Final exam: 30%

In-Class Announcements, E-mail Announcements, and Class Web Site

I will make various announcements in class, including homework assignments and definite dates for midterm examinations. I will also periodically send announcements and reminders by e-mail to your mail.rochester.edu accounts. You will be responsible for all of these announcements. Many of these announcements will appear in the class website, whose URL is above.

Special Needs

I will accommodate students with special needs whenever possible. Students with special needs should consult with me as soon as possible.

Conflicts

Those of you who have out-of-town commitments due to membership in a college organization (e.g., a sports teams) must let me know *no later than the third week of class* if you anticipate having a commitment that conflicts with an exam.

Final Exam

All students must take the final exam at the scheduled time and date. There will be no exceptions. You should arrange your end-of-the-year plans (including your transportation plans) accordingly.

Clusters

This course may be used to satisfy the requirements for the Logic cluster in Philosophy, which is a cluster in Natural Science. This course may *not* be used to fulfill the requirements for Philosophy clusters in the Humanities.