Logical Methods in Philosophy
Philosophy 214/414
Spring 2008

Instructor: David Braun
Time and Location: MWF 1:00-1:50 pm, Morey 501
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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment
Course Web Page: www.ling.rochester.edu/~braun/Teaching/214/index.htm

This course will be concerned with a variety of logical systems that are commonly used in philosophy. We will begin with propositional (sentential) logic. We will develop its semantics and its proof theory, and show that they “match” in a certain sense. We will then turn to modal logic, the logic of necessity and possibility. We will consider the proof theory and semantics of several systems of modal logic. Depending on time, we will discuss some of the following: tense logic, deontic logic, counterfactual conditionals, quantified modal logic, and definite descriptions.

Prerequisites
Philosophy 110 (Introduction to Logic) or permission of the instructor.

Text
Required:
David Braun, Logical Methods in Philosophy.
Recommended: I have placed the following books on reserve in Rush Rhees.
Geoffrey Hunter, Metalogic.
Brian Chellas, Modal Logic.

Required Work for 214 Students
1. Homework assignments (about thirteen).
2. Two midterm examinations. Tentative dates: Friday, February 15 and Friday, March 28.
3. A final examination. Definite date: Tuesday, May 6, 7:15 pm. No exceptions.

Required Work for 414 Students
Same as above, though you will have additional problems on your homework assignments and/or examinations.
Homework Assignments
I will assign a set of homework problems approximately once a week, usually due on a Wednesday. You must hand in your homework at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. Late homework will not be accepted. I encourage you to work together on the homework assignments. 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.

Grading
For both 214 and 414 students:
1. Homeworks: 25%
2. Each exam: 25%

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 you 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.