Phil 10 Syllabus F2011

Philosophy 10: Introduction to Logic

Fall Quarter 2011. UCSD.
Time: MW 1-1:50
Room: Center 101
Instructor: Rick Grush (rick$mind.ucsd.edu (replace the '$' with a '@') -- http://mind.ucsd.edu)
Office Hours: W 2:30-4:30, HSS 7038

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 For some information about this course, including CAPE comments, exam length, and academic integrity, click here

TA	Sections	Office Hours	Office Hours Location & Email
Veronica Pear	A01- M 5-5:50, WLH 2207	Tu 1-2	HSS 7055 vpear@ucsd.edu
Tanya Hall	A02- Tu 9-9:50, U413-2	M 2-3	HSS 7055 TanyaHall@ucsd.edu
Amanda Brovold	A03- W 12-12:50, PCYNH 120 A04- W 5-5:50, PCYNH 120	W 2:45-4:45	HSS 7089 abrovold@ucsd.edu
Dan Schwartz	A05- Th 4-4:50, U413-2 A06- F 11-11:50, CSB 005	F 9-11	HSS 8073 d1schwar@ucsd.edu

1. Short Description:
Content.
This course consists of six parts of roughly equal length. In the first four parts we will cover the basics of formal sentential logic, including translations into formal notation, truth tables, and proofs. In the 5th and 6th parts, we will study informal reasoning, focusing on ways that it can commonly go wrong. Note that students in this class are expected to complete their own work on exams, and not be copy from other students or any other source. Violation of this is plagiarism and constitutes a violation of class and University policy.

Structure.
There are two lectures per week, and one discussion section. Grades are based on five exams given in class and one final exam.

Text, lecture podcasts, and other materials.

The text for the course is Basic Sentential Logic and Informal Fallacies (BSLIF), which is available at UCSD bookstore. This text is brief, and covers everything you will need to know, and nothing that you won't need to know. The text also contains practice exams for all exams including the final exam. So of all the materials for the course, it is probably the most important.

In addition to the text, there is a logic website for this course, that has additional exercises with solutions.

Also, all lectures -- including video, audio, and pdfs of powerpoint slides -- are freely available for download.

You can watch the videos online (or even download them if you want) by clicking on these links

Lecture 1 -- Lecture 2 -- Lecture 3 -- Lecture 4 -- Lecture 5
Lecture 6 -- Lecture 7 -- Lecture 8 -- Lecture 9 -- Lecture 10
Lecture 11 -- Lecture 12 -- Lecture 13 -- Lecture 14 -- Lecture 15

You can download the video files (in quicktime format) themselves onto your computer. Click here to go to a list of all movie files.

 -- PDFs of the powerpoint slides can be downloaded here.

 -- Audio files of the lectures (the same as the video lectures only without the video part) are here. These probably won't make much sense unless you also have the PDFs of the slides available (see (4) above). This audio with printouts of the slides is for anyone who has a non-video mp3 player.

2. Schedule:

The following schedule is subject to change. The dates of exams may have to be changed for any number of reasons. This doesn't happen frequently, but it does happen from time to time. Therefore, you should plan to be available for all of these sessions. Schedule family vacations or whatever else on a day that this class meets at your own risk. If the schedule changes such that an exam falls on a day that you were planning to not be available, this does not constitute an excuse for missing the exam. See the 'make up exams' section below for more detail. If any due dates or exam days change, these changes will be announced on the google group as soon as known.

Some days have material that will be lectured on, as well as an exam. The lecture sessions are 50 minutes, and the exams are designed to be relatively short, taking no more than 25 minutes. Exams will be given during the first half of the specified lecture session, and will generally not cover material that was only first lectured on that same day.

Session 01 (09.26)   BSLIF 1
Session 02 (09.28)   BSLIF 1
Session 03 (10.03)   BSLIF 1
Session 04 (10.05)   BSLIF 1
Session 05 (10.10)   BSLIF 2, Exam 1
Session 06 (10.12)   BSLIF 2
Session 07 (10.17)   BSLIF 2
Session 08 (10.19)   BSLIF 3, Exam 2
Session 09 (10.24)   BSLIF 3
Session 10 (10.26)   BSLIF 3
Session 11 (10.31)   BSLIF 4, Exam 3
Session 12 (11.02)   BSLIF 4
Session 13 (11.07)   BSLIF 4
Session 14 (11.09)   BSLIF 4, Exam 4?
Session 15 (11.14)   BSLIF 5, Exam 4?

Session 16 (11.16)   BSLIF 5
Session 17 (11.21)   BSLIF 5, Exam 5
Session 18 (11.23)   BSLIF 6
Session 19 (11.28)   BSLIF 6
Session 20 (11.30)   BSLIF 6
Final Exam: Monday December 5, 11:30am – 2:30 pm, Room TBA, but probably Center 101

3. Grades:
There are 1000 points possible for the course. This is broken down as follows: 110 for each of five exams, for a total of 550. The final is worth 450 points.

The final exam's 450 points are broken down as follows. 55 will correspond to material from each of the five exams. The remaining 165 points will cover material covered in the last sixth of the course: everything after Exam 5. This totals to 440 points. The other 10 points on the final will correspond to a 5 point MC question on the syllabus, and 5 points for filling the exam out correctly (this means, among other things, putting your correct name and suction number on the exam and blue book, as well as other things. This will be discussed in class and on the google group.)

Letter grades will not be assigned until after all points are in. The worst-case scenario is that it will be a straight 10% breakdown: 90%-100% will be A-, A or A+; 80%-89.9% will be B-, B or B+; and so forth. So if you need to get a C-, for example, you should plan on getting at least 700 points out of the 1000 possible. Depending on the class average, the grade cut-offs may be curved downward a bit -- for example one quarter the A- cut-off was 880 points rather than 900. But you should not count on any such curving down. The grade cut-offs will not be curved up, however, meaning that the straight 10% breakdown is the highest that the grade cut-offs will be set.

A note on curves: By definition, a curve is something that can only apply when one is deciding how to map points onto letters. We don't do this until the end of the term when the final is over and all points are in. Therefore, there's no point in asking, after the first or second midterm, if there was any curve. If you want an idea of what letter your current points will get you, see the paragraph just above this one.

Special pleading at the end of the course will have no effect. Every quarter a certain number of students who apparently need to pass the class in order to graduate or remain eligible for some sort of aid, or whatever, miss the C- cut-off, or the D cut-off, or whatever it is that they need. Some of these students are then unable to graduate, or maintain eligibility for something, etc. If this is your situation then you need to make sure you pass the class. We have office hours and are happy to help if you are having trouble with the material; practice exams are available for you to assess your own level of preparation. I and the TAs are happy to spend time with anyone who needs it to help them get a handle on the material so they can do well on the exams. But it is your responsibility to attend lecture, attend sections, study the material, do problem sets, and take practice exams, and and come to office hours if you need help. We will NOT adjust grades after they have been assigned, except in cases where an actual error of some sort has been made. See the section below on how to do well in this course for more advice on how to insure that you pass the class. It is no fun being unable to graduate because you missed a C- by 2 points out of 1000, and I don't like having to be the one who fills out the D or F on the grade sheet. So do us both a favor and be certain that you learn the material well enough to pass the class. I apologize for the negative tone of this paragraph, but I take it that the vast majority of the students in this class who work hard and study the material do so on the assumption that the grade they earn on that basis means something. They are depending on me to not do things like give some other student who didn't work as hard to understand the material as well the same grade just because this other student did some lobbying after the quarter was over. Every student's grade is determined by the points they receive, including those who miss a grade cut-off by 1 point out of 1000. I am spending so much time on this topic because, as I said, I don't like being the one who fills out the F or D on the grade sheet for a student who was planning to graduate, has a job lined up, etc. So please, study, attend lecture, do the practice exams, go to

section -- and ask questions if there is stuff you don't understand. See me or the TAs is you need help. Don't take a risk by not studying, skipping lectures or homework, and try to estimate how much you can slack off and 'probably' still pass. To sum up: the time to come see me (or your TA) is before you get the bad grade, enough before so we can help you to not get the bad grade, not after.

No make-up exams will be given. If you miss a midterm exam for a legitimate reason, such as serious medical injury or illness, then the points will be made up in the following way: The final exam has sections that correspond to material from each exam -- each worth 55 points. If a student misses a midterm exam for a legitimate reason, then the points that the student earns on that section of the final that corresponds to the missed exam will be multiplied by 2, and that number used for the student's exam score (because 55 x 2 = 110). Legitimate reasons include serious illness with a doctor's note. Personal travel plans that conflict with the schedule, forgetting about the exam, etc., are not legitimate excuses.

If you miss an exam for a non-legitimate reason, such as a vacation or oversleeping, you can make the points up on the final exam with a 15% penalty, meaning that rather than multiplying the score on the relevant part of the final by 2, we will multiply it by 1.7.

In order to help accommodate students with scheduling issues, an early version of the final will be given, usually 4 - 7 days before the normally scheduled exam, depending on the final exam schedule. Exact place and time will be announced in class and on the email lists.

4. Requirements for taking the exams:

No notes or books or other materials are allowed during the exam. You will need only one or more blue books, and one or more writing implements. The exam will have a sheet where you record your multiple choice answers. All work, and solutions to problems that are not multiple choice, must be written in the blue books. The exam should be placed inside the blue book and turned in with it when you turn your exam in.

5. Score Sheets

Score sheets will be posted as pages to this group when they are available. These will be updated after each exam. Scores are listed by a coded version of your student ID number in order to protect privacy, as per University regulations. In order to determine what your coded ID number is, do the following. Take your student ID number. This will be something like a letter followed by 8 digits, like "A01234567". Remove the letter and the first digit, and you're left with a string of 7 digits, like "1234567". Take the first four digits, and treat this as a 4 digit number (something between 0000 and 9999); and take the last four digits and treat this like another 4-digit number. In the example above, they would be "1234" and "4567". Add these two numbers together, for example: 1234 + 4567 = 5801. If the number you get is 5 digits, remove the first digit to make it 4 digits long; if it is 4, then keep it at 4 digits. This is your coded ID number. To see another example: If your student ID is "A05367921", you drop the first letter and number: "5367921"; then take the first 4 digits: "5367"; and the last 4 digits "7921"; add them together: 5367+7921=13288. If the result is 5 digits, remove the first digit: "3288". If you cannot find your row on the score sheet, first make sure you figured your coded ID correctly. 80% of the time students can't find their score it is because they figured their coded ID incorrectly. Next, check other score sheets, especially if you changed sections at some point in the quarter or added late. If you still have trouble, email me with your name, section, your student ID number, and what you figured your coded ID number to be.

6. Online Announcement List:

There is a Google group for this class, and it is a course requirement that you either subscribe to the list and set your membership to receive email announcements, or that you regularly, at least once or twice a week, check the page online to read the announcements. You can get to the announcement page here:

http://groups.google.com/group/phil_10_ucsd_f_2011

I recommend that you click on that link now, and sign up for the group. Don't worry, only I and the TAs can post, so you won't be getting any spam.

If for whatever reason you don't wish to sign up, that is OK. You can still visit the page to read any announcements without signing up. But the announcements won't be emailed to you, you will have to remember to visit the page often to read the announcements. Remember, *you are responsible for any information or announcements posted to this group*.

When the quarter is over, and it is clear that no more announcements will be needed (like where to pick up finals, or whatever), I will delete this group. So if you are subscribed, there will be no need to unsubscribe.

6. How to do well in this course:

Subscribe to the announcement list. Attend all the lectures, and read the corresponding chapters of the text before the lecture. Attend the discussion sections, and do all exercises and practice exams. Use them, and other non-assigned exercises (in the text or on the website) to determine for yourself how well you have mastered the material. If anything doesn't make sense, you can see the lecture again in video version (see above), you can read the relevant parts of the book again. And of course if you need additional help, ask your TA or myself. We have office hours. The earlier you get clear on some issue that is giving you trouble, the better it will be for everybody.

For each exam, a practice exam is available in the text. I recommend that before the actual exam, you administer one of the exams to yourself, giving yourself only 25 minutes. Then grade your exam (answers will be posted on this group). This will allow you to find what material, if any, you need to work on some more. Consult myself or the TA, or simply do more exercises of the type you need to improve on until you feel you have mastered this material.

This will be a very manageable class IF you simply keep up with the material, regularly practice by doing exercises, and ask for help as soon as you need it.

Many students end up getting grades much worse than they expect because they do not follow the above advice. The material looks easy when you read through it or watch someone else work a proof or truth table, and many students then think "That looks easy, I'll be able to do that on a test." But as some students learn the hard way, watching someone do it is a lot easier than doing it yourself. Furthermore, the exams are long. Purposefully long. Most students do not finish them. The only way to get to the point where you can do the problems quickly and accurately is to do a lot of practice. [Amazingly, I give people this advice every time I teach this class, and every time a large chunk of students still fall into exactly these traps.]

7. Information for OSD students:

If you are a student approved by OSD for special accommodations, you need to coordinate with me beforehand. For students who need 1.5 times the regular exam time, the usual practice is to start midterm exams an hour earlier than the scheduled time, and the final 2 hours before. The location is usually the department library. But for EACH exam for which you need accommodations, you should email me between 2 and 4 days prior to the exam to set up and verify the time and place. If I do not hear from you at least 2 days prior to the exam, then I cannot guarantee that I will be able to provide special accommodations.